

ACORN FOUNDATION BEVERLY PERSZYK SCHOLARSHIP

The **Acorn Foundation**, formed in 2003, is a charitable trust created by and for the people of Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty community. The principal goal of the Acorn Foundation is to encourage locals to consider leaving a gift in their will and/or during their lifetime to benefit the local community, forever.



The **Acorn Foundation Beverly Perszyk Scholarship** was established in 2020. Beverly Perszyk was born and raised in the United States during the Great Depression. She was the only one of eight siblings not to attend a tertiary institution. She chose instead to start a good job at City Hall on the Monday following her last day at school. While she said she never wanted to go to university, despite family pressure to do so, she often spoke of the transformative effects tertiary education can have. And so, Beverly would have been delighted to support first-in-family students pursuing university education.

Purpose

The Acorn Foundation Beverly Perszyk Scholarship aims to financially assist students who are the first in their family to undertake full-time undergraduate study at the University of Waikato Tauranga Campus.

Priority will be given to those who are achieving academic success, while personal challenges/hardships may also be taken into consideration.

Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- a) be the first member of their immediate family/whānau to attend university (i.e., neither of the applicant's birth parents nor a full or half sibling can have undertaken university studies);
- b) have completed and successfully passed all papers in their first year of study;
- c) have completed and successfully passed all papers in the following year(s) of study (if any);
- d) be intending to re-enrol full-time (a full-time academic year comprises 120-points) in the following year of an undergraduate degree at the University of Waikato Tauranga Campus;
- e) be accepted into their programme of study; and
- f) be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

Value and Tenure

One Scholarship will be awarded each year and shall have a value of **\$4,000**. The Scholarship will have a maximum tenure of one year.

Awarding

The Scholarship will be paid in one lump sum to the recipient after the withdrawal date for A Trimester in the year following awarding.

Application

The closing date for applications is **15 October annually**; applications are made electronically through the University of Waikato online application process.

As part of the online application process, each applicant must provide the following information:

- a) A personal statement that outlines:
 - What it means to the applicant and/or their family to be the first-in-family to attend University;
 - Future aspirations and motivation to succeed at University; and
 - Why the course of study will enhance their life-long opportunities.
- b) A statement of confirmation from someone (a non-family member) who can confirm that you are the first in your family to attend University.
- c) A brief CV (no longer than two A4 pages in length); and
- d) Upload two references into the online application. The references should be one academic and one character reference. Applicants will need to contact their referees, request a reference be sent to them directly, and upload the references into their online application before submitting the application.

Selection Criteria and Selection Panel

Awards will be made on the evidence provided in the applicant's personal statement (as outlined above under "Application").

The Selection Panel will be organised annually by the Acorn Foundation and may include any or all of the following:

- a) a representative of the Acorn Foundation (as chair);
- b) the Tauranga Liaison Partnership Manager (or nominee); and
- c) the University of Waikato Associate Director Tauranga Student Services (or nominee).

The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit in that year. The Selection Panel's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

Other Conditions

The Scholarship may be held with any other prize, scholarship or award provided the regulations of the other award(s) allow this.

The Acorn Foundation (through the University of Waikato) and/or University of Waikato may terminate this Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the Acorn Foundation, Scholarship, or the University into disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship.

By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato or the Acorn Foundation.

The Acorn Foundation may from time to time vary these regulations².

¹ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).

² Last updated 21 June 2024