

The University of Waikato and HMS Trust Award was established in 2023 to support clients of the Hamilton Multicultural Services Trust (HMS Trust) to gain a degree from the University of Waikato.



HMS Trust and the University of Waikato have a formal Memorandum of Agreement with the objective of improving the economic and social wellbeing of the migrant former refugee community in Hamilton and the Waikato.

The University and Trust partnered to provide support for tuition fees and course materials for up to four students each year until 2028.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Award provides support to HMS Trust clients living within the Waikato region to undertake a degree programme at the University of Waikato.

2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

2.1. To be eligible, applicants must:

- 2.1.1 be current clients of HMS Trust living within the Waikato region;
- 2.1.2 be intending to enrol part- or full-time in any level of study in a programme of study offered by the University of Waikato in the year of tenure;
- 2.1.3 be actively contributing to the wider Waikato community; and
- 2.1.4 be eligible for domestic fees status (i.e., be a NZ Citizen, NZ Permanent Resident, NZ Resident Class Visa holder, or Australian Citizen/Permanent Resident domiciled in NZ).

- 2.2. Previous recipients (i.e., those who held the award in previous years) may apply again but must have passed all papers in the year(s) of tenure to be eligible for consideration.

- 2.3. **Selection will primarily be based on** the applicant's contribution to the wider community and rationale for undertaking a degree programme at the University. However, preference may be given to applicants with:

- 2.3.1 first-time applicants.
- 2.3.2 strong academic achievement and/or potential.
- 2.3.3 financial need.

2.4. To maintain eligibility recipients must, in the year of tenure:

- 2.4.1. enrol part- or full-time in any level of study in a programme of study offered by the University of Waikato in at least two trimesters of study.
- 2.4.2. not hold any other tuition fees Award offered by the University of Waikato.
- 2.4.3. Continue to be clients of HMS Trust and remain as residents in the Waikato region.

3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. The value of each award will be **up to \$8,000** and will be paid as follows:
 - 3.1.1 \$7,500 will be paid directly towards tuition fees (not including the Student Services Fee).
 - 3.1.2 \$500 will be paid in cash directly to the recipient after the withdrawal date for A Trimester and on confirmation the student meets all conditions in clause 2.4. It is expected that the cash portion of the award will be used towards the costs of course materials.
- 3.2. Where tuition fees are less than the total amount awarded any remainder will be forfeited.
- 3.3. Successful applicants will be advised of the offer of an award via their MyWaikato portal and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse, and the Award offered to the next reserve applicant.
- 3.4. In accepting the Award, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Award and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
- 3.5. The Award will have a maximum tenure of one year.

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for online applications is normally 10 December each year for awarding the following year, however for **2024 recipients the closing date will be 01 February 2024**.
- 4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must complete the online personal statement form including:
 - 4.2.1 Their active involvement in the wider-Waikato community.
 - 4.2.2 Why completing a degree from University of Waikato is important to their future ambitions.
 - 4.2.3 What their connection to HMS Trust is and how it benefits them.
 - 4.2.4 Any other information to support their application (e.g., financial hardship).
- 4.3. Applicants must also request the submission of a confidential personal reference attesting to the applicant's character. The reference may not be supplied by a member of the applicant's family.

5. Selection Panel

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise of the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee) in the Chair and up to three HMS Trust Leaders nominated by the Executive Chair of HMS Trust.
- 5.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicant of sufficient merit.
- 5.3. The Selection Panel's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

6. Other Conditions

- 6.1. The award may not be held with any other University of Waikato funded tuition-fees offering. It may be held with any other scholarship, award, or prize, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 6.2. Recipients should seek independent financial advice about any tax implications of their award.
- 6.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate this award at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the award, University or HMS Trust into disrepute¹, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the award and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of an award shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.
- 6.4. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Award.
- 6.5. By accepting the award, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the award arranged by the University of Waikato and/or HMS Trust.

¹ See [Code of Student Conduct](#)