

# WSU 'First in Family' Scholarship - 2025



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

The WSU 'First in Family' Scholarship was established in 2010 by the Waikato Students' Union to acknowledge, celebrate, and support undergraduate students who have never had an immediate family member attend a New Zealand university. The award is funded equally by the Waikato Student Union (WSU) and the University of Waikato Student Services. Up to three awards will be made each year.



## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the award is to provide some financial support to students who are 'first in family' and in their final year of undergraduate study at the University of Waikato.

## 2. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- 2.1. **To be eligible**, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- 2.1.1. have **completed at least 120-points** (i.e., one full-time year of academic study) towards their degree at the University of Waikato, at the time of application.
- 2.1.2. be enrolled full-time (at least 120-points) in their final year of their first undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato, at the time of application.
- 2.1.3. be the first member of their immediate family to attend a university. For the purposes of this scholarship 'immediate family members' is defined as parents (including step-parents), siblings (including half siblings, step siblings and adopted siblings).
- 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. **Students who are not eligible to apply** include:

- 2.2.1. current members of the Waikato Students' Union Executive, or employees of the Waikato Students' Union who hold a fixed-term or continuing contract.
- 2.2.2. previous recipients of the award are not eligible to apply (the award may only be held once).

- 2.3. **Selection is based on** the rationale for attending university and any obstacles overcome to access a tertiary education.

## 3. Value, Tenure and Awarding

- 3.1. The Scholarship value is **\$1,000** and will be paid directly into the recipient's bank account in one lump as soon as practicable after acceptance.
- 3.2. It is expected that the funds will be used to help defray course and living costs.
- 3.3. The Scholarship will have a maximum tenure of one year.

- 3.4. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have:
  - 3.4.1. read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
  - 3.4.2. agreed to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the WSU or the University of Waikato.
  - 3.4.3. agreed to be contacted directly by staff of the WSU regarding an invitation to attend a presentation ceremony and to attend the presentation ceremony, if held.

#### 4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for applications is **31 May** annually.
- 4.2. As part of the application process, each applicant must provide information on the following within the online application form:
  - 4.2.1. the decision/reason why they wanted to attend university.
  - 4.2.2. any hardships or difficulties faced in accessing tertiary education.
- 4.3. As part of the application process, applicants must also:
  - 4.3.1. provide a brief CV (no more than two A4 pages in length).
  - 4.3.2. request submission of two references, from two different people who are **not family members**, and who can confirm/provide:
    - a) First in Family (statement of confirmation from someone who can attest that the applicant is the first in your family to attend university).
    - b) Character reference (a statement attesting applicant's rationale for attending university and any obstacles to achieving a tertiary education).

#### 5. Selection Panel

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise a representative of the University of Waikato Scholarships Committee (as nominated by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee) in the Chair, the President of the Waikato Students' Union, the Vice President of the Waikato Students' Union, one Director of the Waikato Students' Union as nominated by the President, the General Manager of the Waikato Students' Union.
- 5.2. The Selection Panel's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.
- 5.3. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no applicant(s) of sufficient merit.

#### 6. Other Conditions

- 6.1. The Scholarship may be held together 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 Scholarship.
- 6.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate the Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the

Scholarship, the University or Sponsor into disrepute<sup>1</sup>, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of the Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.

- 6.4. The Scholarships Committee, in consultation with the WSU, has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

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<sup>1</sup> See [Code of Student Conduct](#).