



The Vice-Chancellor's International Excellence Scholarship (prior to 2023 named the University of Waikato International Excellence Scholarship) was established in 2015 to promote educational opportunities, foster internationalisation and support talented international applicants who are enrolling as new students into undergraduate or postgraduate programmes¹ at the University of Waikato. The Scholarships are tuition fees credits in NZD, have a value of up to \$15,000 and are awarded to applicants who have demonstrated excellent academic achievement. Successful applicants will be called upon to become global ambassadors for the University of Waikato.

1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. To be eligible, applicants must:

- 1.1.1. be applying to enrol full-time in an undergraduate or postgraduate programme¹, **as a new international student** to the University of Waikato.
- 1.1.2. have received a conditional or unconditional offer of place from the University of Waikato (including a pathway offer for a degree packaged with the Certificate of Attainment in English Language; the Certificate of Attainment in Foundation Studies; Certificate of University Preparation; International Diploma (Business); International Diploma (Computer Science) or Diploma of Postgraduate Preparation (Pre-Masters) at the University of Waikato.
- 1.1.3. have a minimum GPA equivalency of B+ in the qualification used to gain entrance to the University of Waikato.

1.2. Applicants will be deemed **ineligible if any of the following apply:**

- 1.2.1. Currently enrolled in the University of Waikato College or any University of Waikato degree programmes.
- 1.2.2. Have paid tuition fees or applied for a visa at the time of application.
- 1.2.3. coming to the University of Waikato via a sponsoring body². coming to the University of Waikato on a Guaranteed Credit Arrangement³, or through a study abroad or student exchange agreement.
- 1.2.4. Are offshore applicants applying on or after:
 - a) 31 December for A Trimester offers of place
 - b) 30 April for B Trimester offers of place
 - c) 31 August for C Trimester offers of place
 - d) 31 October for H or X Trimester offers of place

¹ All undergraduate and postgraduate programmes except the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) are eligible.

² Examples of a sponsoring body are: governments, institutions and employers who fund student scholarships for study.

³ Guaranteed credit arrangements are where an institution has a formal agreement with the UoW whereby a student can study part of their degree at the partner institution and credit that study towards study at the University of Waikato.

1.3. Selection is based on:

1.3.1. Academic merit.

1.3.2. Potential to become global ambassadors for the University of Waikato.

1.4. On-going eligibility is conditional on recipients:

1.4.1. Enrolling within 12 months of the dates outlined in the Offer of Place **and** commencing a full-time programme/s of study of at least 120 points at the University of Waikato in the year(s) of tenure.

- a) The original scholarship offer is valid only within 12 months of the dates outlined in the Offer of Place unless deferral is approved.
- b) If for any reason a recipient defers study at the University of Waikato within one calendar year from their original start date, their scholarship may also be deferred if the recipient advises scholarships@waikato.ac.nz when confirmation of the new start date has been received. If a student defers to a new date outside of one year, then their scholarship will no longer be valid, and they will need to apply again when scholarship applications are open for that new year.

1.4.2. Residing in New Zealand for the entire tenure of the scholarship and remaining studying full-time on campus in New Zealand.

1.4.3. Maintaining international student status within the University's student system during the entire tenure of the scholarship. Any change in status will result in the scholarship being fully or partly removed from the student's account.

2. Awarding, Value and Tenure

2.1. The scholarship value will be **between \$2,500 and \$15,000** and will be paid towards the first 12 months of study at the University of Waikato, split evenly across two trimesters⁴. The total value offered will be a contribution towards tuition fees only, and all remaining tuition fees and other costs must be met through other means.

2.2. The number of scholarships offered, disbursement of award, and value of each scholarship offered is at the discretion of the Selection Panel and Scholarships Committee and is based on criteria such as, but not limited to, GPA equivalency, funding available, intended programme of study, and duration of intended programme of study.

2.3. The scholarship will be applied directly to the recipient's tuition fees for the agreed programme of study either at the time of enrolment or once their enrolment is completed.

2.4. Students who are offered a scholarship and have a pathway offer for study at the University of Waikato (see 1.1.2. above) will have their scholarship applied to their degree programme

⁴ Recipients who commence study in the middle or end of a year will receive half of their award once enrolled. The other half will be processed once they enrol into the upcoming year.

following the successful completion of their pathway programme.

- 2.5. All applicants will be advised of the result of their application through their MyWaikato portal.
- 2.6. **Successful applicants will receive a scholarship offer which is valid for 14 days.** Offers must be accepted by the date indicated or the offer will lapse and no longer be valid.
- 2.7. After accepting the Scholarship Offer, recipients will receive an official Scholarship Offer Letter to assist in any student visa application.
- 2.8. Recipients may pay the full tuition fee amount **minus** the value of the scholarship in the offer. They must provide their Scholarship Offer Letter to Immigration New Zealand in order to do so.
- 2.9. In accepting the Scholarship, the recipient will be deemed to have read, understood and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship, and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
- 2.10. The maximum possible tenure is 12 months.

3. Application

- 3.1. Applications can be submitted at any time and decisions will normally be made within 8 to 12 weeks of the time of application. However, applications may not be considered if received within 4 weeks of the start of each of the university's three main trimesters (A, B, and C Trimesters).
- 3.2. As part of their online submission, applicants must:
 - 3.2.1. upload their conditional or unconditional offer of place from the University of Waikato.
 - 3.2.2. ensure they provide specific details when explaining why they want to study at the University of Waikato and how they will be a global ambassador for the University of Waikato.

4. Selection Panel

- 4.1. Applications will be ranked and recommended according to the Selection Criteria by the International Office and forwarded to the Selection Panel for consideration.
- 4.2. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee and the Director – International (or their nominees).
- 4.3. The Selection Panel's decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into following each selection meeting.

5. Other Conditions

- 5.1. The Scholarship may **not** be held in conjunction with:
 - 5.1.1. any other University of Waikato funded tuition fees scholarship, award, bursary or other such funding, **or**
 - 5.1.2. any Education New Zealand scholarships or Manaaki Scholarship.
- 5.2. If, during the tenure of the Scholarship, a recipient's circumstances change in such a manner that their continued eligibility for the Scholarship may be affected, they must inform

scholarships@waikato.ac.nz immediately.

- 5.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate a Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder is not following the approved programme of study, withdraws from the University during the tenure of the Scholarship, brings the Scholarship or University into disrepute⁵, or is not otherwise complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The recipient will have the right to appeal against any decision to terminate the Scholarship.
- 5.4. By accepting a Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any reasonable publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.
- 5.5. Any ambassadorial duties will be at the discretion of the International Office. Any queries in regard to these duties can be made to gowaikato@waikato.ac.nz.
- 5.6. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

⁵ See [Student Code of Conduct](#).