

The Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship was established in 2005 and named in honour of New Zealand's greatest adventurer. The Scholarship is for well-rounded individuals who display strengths in three key pillars: 1) academic achievement, 2) strong sporting or creative and performing art abilities, and 3) leadership potential. Recipients (Hillary Scholars) are supported on the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme, to excel in academia and leadership while continuing in their sport or creative and performing art. Up to 20 scholarships are awarded each year, each with a total value of up to \$30,000. For more information, visit the [Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme](#) page on our website.

1. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1.1. To be eligible for consideration applicants must:

- 1.1.1. demonstrate academic achievement with a minimum of NCEA Level 2 with Merit, or the equivalent through examinations such as the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), the International Baccalaureate (IB) examination, or the Australian Secondary School examinations.
- 1.1.2. demonstrate strong achievement to date in:
 - a) a sporting code (minimum regional representation is required), and/or
 - b) a creative or performing art.
- 1.1.3. demonstrate leadership.
- 1.1.4. be studying at NCEA Level 3 (or equivalent) towards University Entrance in the year of application (gap year see also [clause 1.3](#)).
- 1.1.5. be intending to enrol in an undergraduate degree programme¹ for the first time, and at the University of Waikato² in the year following application.
- 1.1.6. be willing to be part of a University-led visit to their secondary school, or another secondary school if requested, to highlight the importance of university study and study at University of Waikato in particular.
- 1.1.7. 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).
- 1.2. Incomplete Applications will be deemed ineligible.
- 1.3. Gap year - Applicants who are taking one 'gap year' in the year of application may also be considered, but must:
 - 1.3.1. not have done any degree-level study at another tertiary institution on their gap year
 - 1.3.2. have achieved a minimum of Merit (or equivalent) at both NCEA Level 2 and 3 and have achieved University Entrance.

¹ This does not include diplomas, certificates, pathway to undergraduate study through programmes offered by the [University of Waikato College](#), or any programmes of study that are less than 240 points total. Te Tohu Paetahi, is acceptable only where used as a pathway into an undergraduate degree-programme. If a recipient's degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in their first year of study, they can request special consideration by completing the [scholarship variation request form](#).

² Candidates who have undertaken **Unistart** papers at the University of Waikato are **not** excluded by this clause.

1.3.3. have adequately explained the reason for their gap year.

1.4. Selection is based on all the following criteria:

- 1.4.1. academic excellence and likelihood to succeed at university. Academic calculations will be based on the best 80 credits across University Entrance (UE) equivalent subjects at Level 2 and above, from all years up to and including the year prior to application.
- 1.4.2. strength of the applicant's sport/art compared to other applicants.
- 1.4.3. leadership and ambassadorial qualities.
- 1.4.4. preference will be given to applicants that meet the [strategic objectives of the University of Waikato](#).

1.5. To ensure ongoing eligibility and scholarship maintenance, recipients must:

- 1.5.1. by the withdrawal deadline of A Trimester in the year following application have gained admission into an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Waikato³.
- 1.5.2. enrol full-time (i.e., 120 points, usually eight papers) in at least two Trimesters each year (but see [clause 2.4](#)).
- 1.5.3. achieve at least a 'B' grade average across all papers taken each year.
- 1.5.4. ensure the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager receives confirmation from the sport/art coach/mentor that they are still competing/strongly involved in the sport/art by the date requested each year.
- 1.5.5. sustain a level of performance in their sporting code or creative and performing arts, to the satisfaction of the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager.
- 1.5.6. fulfil the leadership and personal development aspects of the programme by showing a willingness to be involved. It is expected that the recipient will meet with the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager at least once during each trimester of enrolment and meet their expectations of involvement in the programme.
- 1.5.7. in their first year, all students who identify as Māori must take part in [Te Kāhui Pīrere](#) and all who identify as Pacific must take part in the [Imua Initiative](#). Students who identify as having both Māori and Pacific heritage can choose which programme to participate in but must choose one.
- 1.5.8. **Creative and performing art only** - all recipients in dance, design, Māori creative and performing arts, music, screen and media, and theatre studies must enrol in a major or minor in that art discipline.

2. Value, Tenure and Awarding

2.1. The value of each scholarship is as follows, subject to the recipient maintaining eligibility as outlined in [clause 1.5](#).

- 2.1.1. **For three years:** \$1,000 cash will be paid to the recipient after the withdrawal date of A Trimester.
- 2.1.2. **In Year One** the recipient may choose either:
 - \$11,000 towards accommodation in the University Halls of Residence

³ This does not include diplomas, certificates, or pathway to undergraduate study through the Certificate of University Preparation. However, where a recipient's degree structure requires them to enrol in an alternative programme of study in their first year as a pathway they can request special consideration by submitting a scholarship variation request at <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/scholarships/scholarship-variation-request-form/>

- **OR** \$3,000 cash after the withdrawal deadline for B trimester (contingent on [Clause 1.5.3](#)) and a tuition fees credit of up to \$8,000, including Student Services Fee; any remainder of the tuition fees portion of the scholarship is forfeited.

2.1.3. **In Years two and three:**

- Recipients will receive a tuition fees credit of up to \$8,000. If funds remain, this will be put towards the Student Services Fees, with any remainder forfeited.
- If a recipient's tuition fees are covered by another scholarship (not fees-free) the recipient may request to receive a portion back as cash based on the points they are enrolled (up to \$5,000 maximum⁴). This cash will be paid after the withdrawal date of C Trimester.

2.2. Successful applicants will be advised of their offer of a Scholarship via their MyWaikato portal and must accept by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.

2.3. **In accepting the Scholarship**, the recipient:

- 2.3.1. will be deemed to have read, understood, and accepted the conditions of the Scholarship and the [Scholarships Policy](#).
- 2.3.2. agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by the University of Waikato.

2.4. **If a recipient needs to study part-time due to sport/art commitments** they must submit a [Scholarships Variation Request](#), with written support from the High Performance Student Scholarships Manager, at least two weeks prior to the withdrawal date of the Trimester. Approval to study part-time will result in a pro-rata scholarship value (except for [clause 2.1.1](#), which will remain the same) and extended tenure to cover the entire Undergraduate Degree-Programme. (i.e., the value of the scholarship will be spread over a longer time).

3. Application

3.1. The closing date for online applications is **31 August each year**.

3.2. **Creative and performing art applicants only.** All applicants must provide accessible links to copies of creative works or recordings of performances in support of their application.

3.3. As part of the online application process, **all applicants** must:

3.3.1. Submit an accessible link to a **maximum three-minute video** of the applicant answering the following questions:

- Why is the University of Waikato right for you?
- How are you an exceptional performer in your sport or art, in your academics, and in leadership contexts?
- What are your aspirations for your sport or art, and for your career?

3.3.2. Complete the **online form** outlining:

- excellence in academics, sport, or creative and performing art (where the applicant has more than one area of excellence, applicants must indicate their primary sport/art).

⁴ Enrolled in 120 points or more = \$5,000; 90 points = \$3,750; 60 points = \$2,500; 30 points or less = \$1,250.

- leadership roles in and outside school, including participation in groups, organisations and/or communities.
 - a clear academic and art/sport plan including aspirations and goals for the future.
- 3.3.3. a **sport/art achievements table completed under the following conditions:**
- No more than 7 entries per sport and/or art within each level of representation (international, national, regional).
 - Written in reverse chronological order.
 - If the applicant does not submit a completed sport/art achievements table, they will be made ineligible and not considered for the scholarship.
- 3.4. **‘Gap year’ applicants only** are required to complete an additional statement outlining what they accomplished in the year between secondary and tertiary study.
- 3.5. Each applicant must request the submission of:
- 3.5.1. an online Academic Assessment which is to be completed by the applicant’s Secondary School (the school will also be contacted directly by the University to obtain the assessment); and
 - 3.5.2. a reference from a person or agency relevant to the sporting code(s) or creative and performing art(s) concerned, attesting to the applicant’s abilities in that sport or art, potential to further excel, and leadership qualities and potential. The referee must not be an immediate member of the applicant’s whānau.

4. **Selection Process and Panel**

- 4.1. **For sport applications** - The Sport Development Manager (or nominee) will assess applications for minimum eligibility requirements under sport.
- 4.2. **For creative and performing art applications** – academic staff in dance, design, Māori creative and performing arts, music, screen and media, and theatre studies will assess and rank applications in their respective art.
- 4.3. The Selection Panel will comprise the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (in the Chair) or nominee, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori (or nominee), the Scholarships Manager (or nominee), the Deputy Director of Strategic Engagement (or nominee), an academic representative for sport (appointed by the Chair), an academic representative for creative performance (appointed by the Chair), and the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager.
- 4.4. The Selection Panel will consider the applications and determine recipients based on the Selection Criteria.
- 4.5. The Selection Panel’s decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

5. **Other Conditions**

- 5.1. Recipients who take up this scholarship are expected to complete at least four trimesters of full-time study at the University of Waikato (i.e., 240 points). Those who withdraw their enrolment before the end of this period will normally be required to pay back the full sum of monies received.
- 5.2. If, during the tenure of the Scholarship, a student withdraws from any paper(s) after the University’s withdrawal deadline, they will be liable for the relevant fees.

- 5.3. If a recipient is in receipt of a student allowance, another scholarship, or any type of financial assistance, it is their responsibility to check their entitlement to other income and any tax implications.
- 5.4. Through the School of Graduate Research, and the High Performance Student Scholarship Manager, the University regularly monitors the recipients' performance, and reserves the right to impose further conditions where a student's progress, conduct or participation is unsatisfactory.
- 5.5. The Scholarship may not be held in conjunction with:
 - 5.5.1. any other University of Waikato funded scholarship or any other University of Waikato funding that includes either a tuition fees credit or accommodation credit as a component.
 - 5.5.2. any other scholarship or award of the same or greater total value.
- 5.6. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, award or prize of lesser value, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.
- 5.7. The Scholarships Committee may terminate a Scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato during the tenure of the Scholarship, brings the University or the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme into disrepute⁵, or is otherwise not complying with the regulations governing the Scholarship and/or the University of Waikato. The recipient of a Scholarship will have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the award.
- 5.8. The Scholarships Committee has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

⁵ See [Code of Student Conduct](#).