

Professor Michael Walker Award for Māori and Pacific Students

Code:	589
Faculty:	All
Applicable study:	Māori and Pacific students enrolling in a postgraduate programme at the University of Auckland
Closing date:	8 July 2025
Tenure:	Up to one year of full-time study (or equivalent)
For:	Assistance with study
Number on offer:	Up to eight
Offer rate:	Annually
Value:	\$3,000 each

Description

The Professor Michael Walker Award for Māori and Pacific Students was established in 2009 as the Tuākana Scholarships to encourage Māori and Pacific students completing their final year of undergraduate study to enrol in postgraduate study. In 2018, the Scholarship was renamed the Professor Michael Walker Award for Māori and Pacific Students to honour the contribution of Professor Walker, the founder of the Tuākana programme, at the time of his retirement from Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland.

Selection process

- Application is made to the Scholarships Office
- A Selection Committee assesses the applications
- The Award is made by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Selection Committee

Regulations

1. The Award shall be known as the Professor Michael Walker Award for Māori and Pacific Students.
2. Up to eight Awards will be made annually, each for a period of one year of equivalent full-time study and will be of the value of \$3,000 each.
3. To be eligible for Award consideration, an applicant must be i) a Māori student or Pacific student (see Note II), ii) a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident (see Note III), iii) enrolled full-time or part-time in the final year of an undergraduate degree programme at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland at the time of application for the Award, and iv) intending to enrol in a postgraduate degree or diploma programme at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland in the following year.
4. The basis of selection will be academic achievement as demonstrated by a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 5.00 (B average) in their previous year of full-time (or equivalent) study, demonstrated participation in the Tuākana programme, recommendation from the Tuākana programme co-ordinator in their area of study and a personal

statement describing how the applicant's study, research and future work will benefit their respective Māori and/or Pacific Communities.

5. The Award will be made by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori) (or nominee), the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Pacific) (or nominee), the Kaihāpai Taura (or nominee), the Pacific Student Success Adviser (or nominee) and a Tuākana Network Representative.
6. The Award will be paid in one instalment in the first semester of enrolment (see Note IV) in a postgraduate programme as soon as is practical after confirmation of the awardee's enrolment (that is, after the final date on which a student may add or delete courses without incurring a late enrolment fee). Part-time students will be paid on a pro-rata basis.
7. To be paid the Award, awardees must be enrolled in a postgraduate degree or diploma at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland.
8. The Award may be held concurrently with any other scholarship, award or grant Auckland as long as the regulations for that scholarship, award or grant permit, and the University of Auckland Council is informed and approves. It is the responsibility of the awardee to declare to the Scholarships Office all other scholarships, awards or grant funding received and for which the awardee receives payment while also in payment for this Award.
9. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if it is determined there is no candidate that meets the criteria and/or no candidate of sufficient merit.
10. Payments under the terms of this Award remain tax-free as long as they are used directly for the payment of costs associated with an awardee's programme of study and/or to assist the awardee with living costs while studying (see Note I). Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Award.
11. The University of Auckland Council can amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Award.
12. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 8 July in the year preceding the award.
13. Notes [I]-[V] below are deemed to be regulations.

Notes

- I. The tax-free status of this Scholarship is under current legislation. The University of Auckland cannot guarantee this tax-free outcome.*
- II. Pacific students are defined as Citizens or Permanent Residents of New Zealand (see Note III) who are of indigenous Pacific descent from any of the following islands: Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Fiji (iTaukei), Rotuma, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Wallis and Futuna, Hawaii, French Polynesia, Rapanui (Easter Island), Pitcairn Islands, Nauru, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands.*
- III. New Zealand Permanent Residents have been granted a Permanent Resident Visa by Immigration New Zealand. For more information visit <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/already-have-a-visa/becoming-a-permanent-resident>.*
- IV. The Award may be taken up in Semester One or Semester Two.*
- V. Awardees will be required to comply with the regulations for the Award and must notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment or funding status. Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland may, in the event that it can be established that an awardee is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Award and require repayment of the funds received.*