

University of Auckland Vaka Moana Scholarship

Code:	1080
Faculty:	All
Applicable study:	First year of undergraduate study for Pacific students
Closing date:	13 August 2025
Tenure:	One year
For:	Assistance with study (including one year of accommodation and study related material)
Number on offer:	Varies
Offer rate:	Annually
Value:	Up to \$20,000 comprising one year of catered accommodation in a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland Hall of Residence plus a laptop

Description

The Scholarship was established in 2020 and is funded by Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to financially support Pacific students attending university for the first time having left secondary school or kura in the previous year. This reflects the University's strategic recruitment goal to encourage greater participation of Pacific students into tertiary education.

Selection process

- Application is made to the Scholarships Office
- A Review Committee assesses the application
- The Scholarship is awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of a Review Committee

Regulations

1. The Scholarship will be known as the University of Auckland Vaka Moana Scholarship.
2. Scholarships will be awarded for the first year of the scholar's undergraduate study and will be of the value of up to \$20,000, comprising one year of catered accommodation in a single room in a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland Hall of Residence (see Notes II to IV), plus a laptop, supplied by Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland. Subject to Regulation 10 and Note XIX, the laptop will be the property of the awardee. The Scholarship will be recorded on the scholar's academic transcript.
3. To be eligible for Scholarship consideration, an applicant must be i) a Pacific student (see Note V), ii) a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident (see Note VI), iii) currently enrolled in their final year of study at a New Zealand secondary school or kura (see Note VII) and iv) intending to enrol full-time in an undergraduate degree, or a Tertiary Foundation Certificate or Certificate in Health Sciences followed by an undergraduate degree at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland in the following year.
4. The basis of selection will be the quality of endorsement from the applicant's school and academic ability based on results of their previous year's study at Level 2 or higher in the National Certificate of Educational Achievement

(NCEA) or an equivalent qualification. The following criteria may also inform selection: participation in Māori performing arts, cultural participation in Pacific contexts, demonstrated leadership potential, achievement in academic, sports or arts competitions, participation in visual and performing arts, and recognition within the community. The personal circumstances of applicants will also be taken into consideration including financial need, the decile or Equity Index number of the most recent secondary school or kura attended, if the applicant is the first in their family to attend university, if the applicant comes from a refugee background, if the applicant has a disability, if the applicant has care responsibilities for whānau, or if the applicant lives, or attends a secondary school or kura, in a rural area (see Notes VIII to XII).

5. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of a Review Committee comprising the Pro Vice-Chancellor Equity (or nominee), the Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific (or nominee), the Associate Director – Schools and Community Engagement (or nominee), and an Academic Staff representative nominated by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Education. In addition, all awarding recommendations will be endorsed by the Entry Level Review Committee.
6. Applicants who have been offered a Scholarship must accept their offer by the date prescribed in the letter of award, otherwise the Scholarship offer will be forfeited.
7. To be paid the Scholarship, awardees must i) achieve admission to Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland with an NCEA rank score of at least 160, a CIE rank score of at least 160 or an IB score of at least 25, which are all equivalent to a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland grade point equivalent (GPE) of 2.40), and ii) enrol full-time in an undergraduate degree or the Tertiary Foundation Certificate or Certificate of Health Sciences, followed by an undergraduate degree, at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland (see Notes XIII to XV).
8. Where an awardee who applied for an undergraduate degree programme has been directed by the University to enrol in a Tertiary Foundation Certificate or a Certificate in Health Sciences prior to enrolling in an undergraduate degree, their eligibility to hold the Scholarship will be considered on a case-by-case basis before the start date for their Scholarship.
9. The starting date for Scholarship funding will be either Semester One or Semester Two, in accordance with the awardee's enrolment, in the year immediately following the final year of secondary study (see Notes XIII to XV).
10. The accommodation component of the Scholarship will be paid directly to the relevant Hall of Residence. The laptop will be provided to awardees at the start of their first semester of enrolment. No part of the Scholarship can be exchanged for a similar or equal cash value at any time. To remain in accommodation in the second semester of enrolment, awardees must achieve a passing grade in all courses in their first semester of enrolment (see Notes XVII to XVIII).
11. As a condition of tenure, awardees will be required to enrol full-time for at least four semesters of study in an undergraduate degree at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland, or the Tertiary Foundation Certificate or Certificate in Health Sciences followed by degree level study (see Notes XVI to XIX).
12. A University of Auckland Vaka Moana Scholarship may not be held concurrently with any other Scholarship funded by Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland (including faculties and Large Scale Research Institutes (LSRIs), or University Research Centres (URCs)). However, it may be held concurrently with any other scholarship or grant as long as the regulations for that scholarship 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 of all other scholarships, awards or grant funding received and for which the awardee receives payment while also in payment for this Scholarship.
13. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if it is determined there are no candidates that meet the criteria and/or no candidates of sufficient merit.
14. Payments under the terms of this Scholarship remain tax-free as long as they are used 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 Scholarship.
15. The University of Auckland Council can amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.
16. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 13 August in the year preceding the award.
17. Notes [I]-[XX] below are deemed to be regulations.

- I. *The tax-free status of this Scholarship is under current legislation. The University of Auckland cannot guarantee this tax-free outcome.*
- II. *Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland Halls of Residence are: Grafton Hall, O'Rorke Hall, University Hall - Towers, and Waipārūrū Hall.*
- III. *All awardees who accept the scholarship will be required to take up a place in a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland Hall of Residence as a condition of holding a University of Auckland Vaka Moana Scholarship. Exceptions to the requirement to take up the accommodation component will be considered only under exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis.*
- IV. *Applicants need to make a separate application for university accommodation by the relevant deadline date.*
- V. *Pacific candidates are defined as Citizens or Permanent Residents of New Zealand 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.*
- VI. *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>.*
- VII. *A University of Auckland Vaka Moana Scholarship must be applied for in the final year of study at a New Zealand secondary school or kura. Students who intend to take a gap year or who do not intend to enrol at university directly after completing their final year are required to apply for this Scholarship while they are in their final year of secondary study, and their application will be considered with applications received in the following year.*
- VIII. *Financial need will be determined by eligibility for a StudyLink Student Allowance.*
- IX. *For the purposes of this Scholarship, 'first in family' means that no member of the applicant's immediate family, including parents and siblings, has completed a university qualification prior to the applicant's first year of study. Adoptive and step parents and siblings are considered part of the family where they have lived with the applicant for the previous five or more years.*
- X. *Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland defines disability as any physical, psychological, cognitive or sensory impairment which may, in interaction with social and systemic barriers, limit a person's full and effective participation in university life on an equal basis with others.*
- XI. *Care responsibilities for whānau/family is defined as providing care for someone close to them who needs help with everyday living because of a health condition or disability to support them to live with dignity and participate more fully in society. Care responsibilities could include looking after relatives in the applicant's immediate family who live in the same household, including children, siblings, parents or grandparents.*
- XII. *For the purposes of this scholarship rural area is defined as an area outside the local authority boundaries of city councils in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Porirua.*
- XIII. *Students intending to commence study in Semester Two are advised to seek academic advice from their faculty and to enrol in their proposed courses well before Semester One commences.*
- XIV. *Except in cases where there are compelling medical reasons or adverse personal circumstances beyond a student's control, the uptake of scholarships cannot be deferred. Students who are offered a University of Auckland Vaka Moana Scholarship but do not take it up in the year of offer may request that their offer be reconsidered in the intake of applications for the year immediately following, providing they meet all other requirements. Deferral requests must be made in writing to the Scholarships Office. The decision of the Scholarships Office is final.*
- XV. *If a student enrolls at another tertiary institution in New Zealand or overseas, the Scholarship will be forfeited.*
- XVI. *Awardees must be enrolled continuously in their programme of study. Deferrals for students who have already commenced their degree will not usually be approved unless there are compelling medical or adverse personal*

circumstances beyond the student's control. Deferral requests must be made in writing to the Scholarships Office. The decision of the Scholarships Office is final.

XVII. A passing grade is a C-.

XVIII. Where an awardee does not achieve a passing grade in one or more courses, their eligibility to retain the Scholarship will be reviewed, taking into account their overall GPA for the semester and any exceptional circumstances beyond the student's control. This process is outlined at www.auckland.ac.nz/scholarships/vaka-moana.

XIX. Awardees who take up this Scholarship but do not complete at least four semesters of study at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland or who withdraw their enrolment in any semester after payment has been made, will be required to pay back the full cost of accommodation and return the laptop.

XX. Awardees will be required to comply with the regulations for the Scholarship 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 Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.