

University of Auckland Top Achiever Scholarship

Code:	900
Faculty:	All
Applicable study:	First year of full-time study for an undergraduate degree programme
Closing date:	12 August 2026
Tenure:	One year
For:	Assistance with study (including one year of accommodation)
Number on offer:	Up to 250
Offer rate:	Annually
Value:	Up to \$25,000 in total comprising one year of catered accommodation in a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland Hall of Residence plus \$5,000 (see Reg. 2)

Description

The Scholarship was established in 2016 and is funded by Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to recognise and reward exceptional academic performance combined with outstanding sporting, artistic, cultural and / or leadership achievements. The provision of university accommodation is designed to provide the best student experience and promote excellent academic outcomes.

Selection process

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

Regulations

1. The Scholarship shall be known as the University of Auckland Top Achiever Scholarship.
2. Up to 250 Scholarships will be awarded annually, each for a period of up to one year, and will be of the value of \$25,000 each comprising the full cost catered accommodation in a single room in a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland Hall of Residence plus \$5,000 (see Notes II to IV). The Scholarship will be recorded on the scholar's academic transcript.
3. To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must be i) a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident (see Note V), ii) currently enrolled in their final year at a New Zealand secondary school or kura (see Note VI), and iii) intending to enrol full-time in a degree at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland in the following year (see Regulation 8). Applications may also be considered from students who have studied at least until the end of Year 11 at a New Zealand secondary school or kura and who, at the time of application, are studying overseas in either an NCEA, IB or CIE programme, or who have completed an NCEA, IB or CIE programme within the year of application. Māori and Pacific candidates intending to enrol in a Certificate of Health Sciences at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of

Auckland may also be considered for the Scholarship.

4. The initial basis of selection will be outstanding academic ability based on results 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, demonstrated leadership potential, achievement in academic, sports or arts competitions, and recognition within the community. The personal circumstances of applicants will also be taken into consideration including: financial need, the 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 secondary school or kura in a rural area (see Notes VII to XII).
5. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Entry Level Review Committee comprising the Pro Vice-Chancellor Education (or nominee), two members of staff nominated by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Māori, the Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific (or nominee), the Pro Vice-Chancellor Equity (or nominee), the Director Student and Scholarly Services (or nominee), the Associate Director Schools and Community Engagement (or nominee) and two Academic Staff representatives nominated by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Education.
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 270, a CIE rank score of at least 330 or an IB score of at least 36, which are all equivalent to a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland entry grade point equivalent (GPE) of 6.00, and ii) enrol full-time in an undergraduate degree or Certificate in Health Sciences (see Regulation 8 and Notes XIV to XVI).
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 enrolment at a secondary school or kura (see Notes XIV to XVI).
10. The accommodation component of the Scholarship will be paid directly to the relevant Hall of Residence and cannot be exchanged for a similar or cash value at any time. The \$5,000 component will be paid in two equal instalments in the awardee's first two semesters of study, as soon as is practical after confirmation of full-time enrolment (that is, after the final date on which a student may add or delete courses without incurring a late enrolment fee) (see Note XIII). To remain in accommodation and to be paid the second instalment, awardees must have achieved a grade point average (GPA) of 6.00 in their first semester of enrolment (see Notes XVIII and XIX).
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 the University of Auckland Waipapa Taumata Rau, or the Certificate in Health Sciences followed by degree level study (see Notes XVI to XX).
12. A University of Auckland Top Achiever 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, award or grant 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 Scholarship.
13. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make the full number of awards 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 12 August of the year preceding the award.

17. Notes [I]-[XXI] 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. *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 accept and take up a place in a Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland Hall of Residence as a condition of holding a University of Auckland Top Achiever 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. *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>.*
- VI. *A University of Auckland Top Achiever 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.*
- VII. *Financial need will be determined by eligibility for a StudyLink Student Allowance.*
- VIII. *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.*
- IX. *For the purposes of this Scholarship, refugee background refers to students who have themselves or whose parents/primary guardian(s) have been granted refuge in New Zealand.*
- 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, a rural area is defined as an area outside the local authority boundaries of city councils in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Porirua, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, Christchurch and Dunedin.*
- XIII. *A payment schedule will be available at www.auckland.ac.nz/scholarships/top-achiever.*
- XIV. *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.*
- XV. *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 Top Achiever Scholarship but who do not take it up in the year of offer may request that their application be reconsidered in the intake of applications for the year immediately following. Deferral requests must be made in writing to the Scholarships Office. The decision of the Scholarships Office is final.*
- XVI. *If a student enrolls at another tertiary institution in New Zealand or overseas, the Scholarship will be forfeited.*
- XVII. *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.

- XVIII. The awardee's GPA is based on all the courses they undertake in each semester of study. A GPA of 6.00 is equivalent to a B+ average.*
- XIX. Where an awardee does not achieve a GPA of 6.00 in their first semester of study, 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/top-achiever.*
- XX. 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 normally be required to pay back the full sum of monies received.*
- XXI. 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.*