

# Scholarship & Award Regulations

## Unitec Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Māori Scholarships - Teina

### Schools: All

This document sets out the regulations for the scholarship ('Scholarship') or award ('Award') named below, as well as the obligations of recipients ('Recipient') and Unitec in regards to this Scholarship. The administrative processes to support awarding this Scholarship will be managed by Unitec having regard to any applicable Unitec policies and Unitec's commitment to Te Noho Kotahitanga.

**1. SCHOLARSHIP NAME:** Unitec Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Māori Scholarships - Teina

### 2. PURPOSE

The Whai Ake mentoring programme aims to provide a strong support system for Māori students who are new to tertiary education. Whai Ake is about growing Māori student leadership capability, increasing first-year completions, and lifting Māori student academic success and retention overall in tertiary study. The scholarship is designed to support Whai Ake taura to engage with their culture throughout their journey at Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka. This scholarship also provides financial support for education-related costs.

### 3. VALUE AND DURATION

**3.1 Number of Recipients:** Approximately fifteen (15) Teina scholarships will be granted annually - contingent on available funding.

**3.2 Benefit(s) to Recipient:** The maximum value of the scholarship will be \$2,000 paid directly to the recipient to cover education related costs.

#### 3.3 Payment of benefit(s):

- Each recipient will receive four payments by cheque or electronic funds transfer to his/her nominated bank account.
- Each payment will be up to \$500.
- Payments will usually be made twice in semester 1 and twice in semester 2.
- Payments are subject to the recipient successfully satisfying ongoing eligibility criteria as defined in clause 8 below.

**4. DURATION:** The duration of the Scholarship is up to one year. For those students who are only enrolled in a one semester programme in semester 1. The scholarship duration will only be one semester, and the scholarship amount will be pro-rated accordingly. If recipients are progressing to a level 4 or above programme in semester 2, and have met the eligibility criteria, they may apply to the Director of Maori Success to continue and extend their scholarship for Semester 2.

New enrolments for the Whai Ake I te Ara Tika scholarship will not be available in semester 2.

## **5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

To be eligible for the Scholarship, an applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- New Zealand citizen or holder of a New Zealand Permanent Resident visa.
- Be starting their first semester of a Certificate, Diploma or Degree Level programme at Unitec in Semester 1.
- Have not completed any prior study at Unitec.
- Must be enrolled at Unitec as a New Zealand Maori.
- Preference may be given to applicants aged between 18-25 years,

## **6. RECIPIENT SELECTION CRITERIA, AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEW**

- Motivation to succeed in their chosen course
- Commitment to the Whai Ake Programme
- Commitment to benefiting their local and Unitec communities,
- Demonstrated organisational and time management skills

## **7. SELECTION**

Eligible candidates will be presented to a Scholarship Selection Committee, which will undertake the selection of Recipients based on the selection criteria stipulated in clause 6. Shortlisted Candidates will be asked to attend an interview. Only those who attend an interview are eligible for the scholarship.

The Scholarships Selection Committee will be made up of at least three relevant members of Unitec. The Scholarships Selection Committee will be chaired by the Director Maori Success, or their nominee, and will include the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator. Scholarship offers will be authorised by the Director, Student Success.

## **8. ONGOING RECIPIENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

### **8.1 Academic progress:**

- The Recipient must maintain a minimum B minus average (minimum GPA 3.5) per semester, unless exceptional circumstances<sup>1</sup> prevail. For those who do not receive letter grades, a Pass grade must be maintained across all enrolled courses.
- The Recipient must attend two academic progress meetings each semester with the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator

### **8.2 Unitec Enrolment:**

The Recipient:

- Must continue to be enrolled full time (minimum of 60 credits) per semester in a Unitec certificate, diploma or degree level programme.
- Enrol in the mātauranga Māori papers up to the value of 15 credits, if available.
- Maintain 80% attendance in all courses, including Whai Ake classes.
- May, in exceptional circumstances<sup>2</sup> apply to the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator for the Scholarship Selection Committee's approval of a part-time study load. The Recipient with an approved part-time study load may receive reduced Scholarship payments for the period of part-time study. The reduced Scholarship payment amount will be determined by the Scholarship Selection Committee at the time of the Recipient's application for approval of part-time study.

### **8.3 Leave / Deferral / Programme withdrawal:**

- If the Recipient defers the Unitec offer or withdraws from the Unitec course/programme after the start of Semester 1, the Scholarship will be terminated.

### **8.4 Other obligations and conditions:**

- The offer of the Scholarship is made subject to all information provided by the Recipient being true and accurate.
- By accepting the offer of the Scholarship, each Recipient agrees to the Regulations.
- The Recipient must participate in all of the below Whai Ake Programme requirements for the duration of the scholarship:
  - Weekly attendance at Whai Ake evenings every Tuesday and Thursday 5-7pm for the duration of their first year as a Teina.
  - Full attendance at 2 Noho Marae throughout the year (usually in April and August)
  - Attend regular academic and pastoral support (workshops at Whai Ake evenings and one on one support)
  - Attend weekly meetings with assigned Tuakana
- The offer of the Scholarship is only valid for the intake defined in the Scholarship letter of offer and cannot be deferred.
- The Recipient is responsible for advising the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator of any changes in circumstances that would make him/her ineligible for continuation of the Scholarship, e.g. reducing study load to part time, taking leave of absence or deferring study.
- Any change in the Recipient's circumstances not addressed by these Regulations will be considered by the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator and/or the Scholarship Selection Committee case-by-case.
- The Recipient will be invited to consent to allowing his/her name, photograph and a short article to be used for the promotion of Unitec.

1&2 Exceptional circumstances include ongoing disability, illness, carer's responsibilities and other educational barriers and are considered case by case at the discretion of the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Coordinator

## **9. TERMINATION OF RECIPIENT'S SCHOLARSHIP**

The Scholarship will terminate:

- If the Recipient ceases to meet the eligibility criteria; or
- If the Recipient breaches any regulations of the Scholarship; or
- If Unitec determines that the student is guilty of misconduct and after consultation with the Director Student Success, deems that it is not appropriate for the Recipient to continue to hold the Scholarship.
- If Unitec terminates the Recipients Scholarship for any of the above reasons, after the start of the Semester 1 or 2, any Scholarship payment already made may be asked to be reimbursed to Unitec.