

Scholarship & Award Regulations

Āheinga Equity Scholarships – Semester 1 2022

The following regulations relate to a scholarship offered by Unitec New Zealand Limited (**Unitec**). By applying for the scholarship, you agree to be bound by these regulations.

1. SCHOLARSHIP NAME: Āheinga Equity Scholarship (“Scholarship”)

2. PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

2.1 Unitec is committed to providing an inclusive and equitable environment that celebrates diversity. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage disabled and neuro diverse learners to pursue their studies at Unitec.

2.2 Financial hardship has been identified by disabled and neuro diverse learners as a barrier to pursuing higher education. The financial and additional support that this scholarship offers is intended to help lessen this barrier by helping to support students with education related costs.

2.3 Unitec recognises that financial support is an important consideration for learners considering study for the first time at Unitec or as returning students. The scholarship provides both financial support and mentoring opportunities.

3. SCHOLARSHIP FINANCIAL VALUE

3.1 The value of the scholarship is \$2,000.00 for a full year of full-time study; or pro-rata for one semester full-time programmes.

3.2 The scholarship is provided to learners to cover education related costs and is paid:

- in two equal payments of \$1,000.00 each semester; or
- where the student’s programme is only one semester long by one payment of \$1,000.00.

3.3 You may not defer or suspend the scholarship without the prior written permission of the awarding Director.

3.5 Once awarded for a particular programme and School, the Scholarship is not transferrable to another Unitec programme or School.

4. DURATION

4.1 The scholarship is awarded for one year i.e., two semesters of consecutive study. Where a student is awarded the scholarship for a programme that lasts for one semester, then the duration of the scholarship is one semester only.

5. WHO’S ELIGIBLE

5.1 To apply, you must:

- be a domestic student, i.e. a New Zealand citizen or Permanent Resident
- have applied to, or already be enrolled, full-time or part-time, in an undergraduate certificate, diploma or degree, or a postgraduate certificate or diploma (Level 3 to 8) programme, that takes at least one semester of full-time study to complete

- have a verified disability (provide documentation or be registered with Access4Success), which for the purpose of this scholarship, includes:
 - physical
 - psychological
 - mental health disorder including anxiety, depression
 - neurological, including specific learning disabilities, ADHD and Autism
 - long term (6 months or more) injury or long-term medical illness/condition/impairment that impacts on the ability to learn
 - intellectual
 - traumatic brain injury

6. HOW TO APPLY

6.1 Apply online on the form provided: [Āheinga Equity Scholarship Application](#). You can complete the form to apply or use it to provide your details and opt to complete your application by video submission.

6.2 As part of your application you will need to respond to the following statements and questions:

- what are you studying at Unitec and what are your career aspirations beyond that?
- what motivates you to succeed in your study?
- do you see yourself as having a part to play in creating a safe and equitable learning environment at Unitec?
- how will this scholarship help support you with your studies?

6.3 You will also need to provide verified documentation of a long-term disability, 6 months or longer, as part of your application OR be registered with Access4Success.

6.4 You should attach documentation to your online application or email it to scholarships@unitec.ac.nz

7. SELECTION

7.1 Once scholarship applications close, the Scholarships & Mentoring Team (“**Team**”) check that applicants have:

- completed the online application and/or video submission;
- are enrolled in a relevant programme at Unitec, i.e. a programme with a minimum duration of one semester of full-time study to complete;
- enrolled as a New Zealand citizen or Permanent Resident; and
- have enrolled with Access4success, or provided relevant verified documentation.

7.2 The Team send all eligible applications out to the Scholarship Selection Committee for review.

7.3 The number of scholarships awarded varies and is dependent on available funding.

8. COMMITTEE PREFERENCING

8.1 It is important to Unitec to manaaki the success of our learners and communities. Our strategic vision includes parity goals for Māori, Pacific, and Under 25 learners, and goals to enhance the success of disabled and neuro diverse learners. We also want to manaaki the success of first in family to pursue tertiary education, sole parents, and International students.

8.2 Unitec Scholarships for any new students are also an opportunity to foster diversity and inclusion in our student cohorts. Factors such as educational disadvantage, gender, refugee or migrant status may all contribute to positive outcomes of your application.

8.3 Preference may be given to learners who demonstrate that financial support will have an impact on their ability to study at Unitec.

8.4 Preference may also be given to:

- students who are in their second or third year of study at Unitec and have passed a minimum of 50% of their courses in their most recent semester of study
- first-time applicants who have not received the Āheinga Equity Scholarship before.

9. SELECTION COMMITTEES

9.1 Selection committees are made up of at least three relevant members of Unitec, including at least one representative from the Disability Support Services – Access4success Team and the Director, Student Success (or delegate), as Committee Chair (“**Committee**”).

The committee review all applications received and will make award recommendations based on a combination of:

- responses to the scholarship application questions;
- potential impact of the financial and mentoring support on the learner’s ability to start study; and
- willingness to engage and contribute to the disability community at Unitec

9.2 Committee award decisions are authorised by the Director, Student Success.

9.3 Unitec has complete discretion in assessing applications for the scholarship. Unitec’s decision is final and binding. Learners are welcome to contact the Scholarships & Mentoring Team at scholarships@unitec.ac.nz for feedback on their scholarship application outcome.

10. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SELECTION

The Scholarships & Mentoring team are the kaitiakitanga of the scholarships process. They will:

- let students know scholarship application outcomes
- check enrolments at week three of the semester as the final eligibility check
- set up the first payments – to be made to students in week eight of semester 1
- manage ongoing eligibility checks, mentoring opportunities, and second payments

11. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

11.1 Academic progress: Learners who are awarded the scholarship are expected to achieve Pass grades for all courses. Students who do not achieve a PASS grade in every course will be contacted by the Scholarships & Mentoring Team to explain any exceptional circumstances, which may include disability related reasons and/or unforeseen situations, that may have impacted on their grades.

11.2 Learners who fail one or more courses will be assisted by the Scholarships & Mentoring team to explain their circumstances via a breach appeals process.

11.3 Appeals are considered by the awarding scholarship selection committees. The committee will decide whether to terminate or maintain the scholarship, and will also provide academic assistance, wherever possible, to support the learner.

11.4 Unitec Enrolment: Learners are expected to maintain their enrolment status, i.e. be enrolled full-time (minimum of 60 credits) per semester, or part-time as stipulated when their scholarship was awarded.

11.5 Programme withdrawal: If you withdraw from the Unitec course/programme after the start of the course/programme, the Scholarship will be terminated and Unitec may require you to reimburse any payment(s) already made for the semester in which you withdraw.

12. TERMINATION OF A SCHOLARSHIP

12.1 Your scholarship terminates if:

- you withdraw from the Unitec course/programme after the start of the programme
- you cease to meet the eligibility criteria;
- you breach the academic and enrolment eligibility requirements and don't successfully appeal; or
- Unitec determines that you are guilty of misconduct and after consultation with the Director Student Success (or their nominee), deems that it is not appropriate for you to continue to hold the Scholarship.

12.2 If Unitec terminates the Recipient's Scholarship for any of the above reasons, after the start of Semester 1 or 2, Unitec may require any Scholarship payment(s) already made may to be reimbursed to Unitec.

13. Other obligations and conditions:

- The offer of the Scholarship is made subject to all information provided by the scholarship recipient ("**Recipient**") being true and accurate.
- By accepting the offer of the Scholarship, each Recipient agrees to the Regulations.
- For the duration of this equity-based scholarship the Recipient is permitted to hold other Unitec scholarships
- The Recipient is responsible for advising the Scholarships Manager of any changes in circumstances that would make him/her ineligible for continuation of the Scholarship, e.g. reducing study load, taking leave of absence or deferring study.
- Any change in the Recipient's circumstances not addressed by these Regulations will be considered by the Scholarships Manager and/or the Scholarship Selection Committee case-by-case.
- The Recipient will be invited to consent to allowing their name, photograph and a short article to be used for the promotion of Unitec.
- The Scholarship is not transferrable or exchangeable.