

Scholarship & Award Regulations

Unitec Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Māori Scholarships - Tuakana

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.

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 - Tuakana

2. PURPOSE

The Whai Ake mentoring programme aims to provide a strong support system for taura Māori who are new to tertiary education. Whai Ake is about growing taura Māori leadership capability, increasing first-year completions, and lifting taura Māori 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) Tuakana scholarships will be awarded - contingent on available funding.

3.2 Benefit(s) to Recipient: The maximum value of the scholarship will be \$1,000 paid directly to the recipient to cover education related costs.

3.3 Payment of benefit(s):

- Each Recipient will receive four payments by electronic funds transfer to their nominated bank account.
- Each payment will be up to \$250.
- Payments will 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 one year.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To apply, you must:

- be a domestic taura Māori, i.e. a New Zealand citizen or holder of a New Zealand Permanent Resident visa
- be a current full-time taura Māori enrolled in a Diploma or Degree Level programme as a second, third or fourth year taura Māori at Unitec
- be enrolled at Unitec as a New Zealand Māori.

6. RECIPIENT SELECTION CRITERIA, AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

- Motivation to succeed in their chosen course
- Commitment to the Whai Ake Programme, supporting Teina, and attending Tuakana training

- Commitment to benefiting their local and Unitec communities
- Demonstrated organisational and time management skills

Preference may be given to applicants:

- Aged between 18-25 years
- Have previously completed Whai Ake as a Teina
- Have been a Whai Ake Tuakana in previous years

7. SELECTION

7.1 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.

7.2 Only those who attend an interview are eligible for the scholarship.

7.3 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 Māori Success, or their nominee, Te Pou Manawa, and will include the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator.

7.4 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 circumstances¹ 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 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 diploma or degree level programme.
- Maintain 80% attendance in all classes, including Whai Ake classes and wānanga.
- May, in exceptional circumstances² 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.

1 & 2: Exceptional circumstances include ongoing disability, illness, carer's responsibilities and other educational barriers and are considered case-by-case

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 Thursday 5-7pm for the duration of their first year.
 - Full attendance of 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)
 - Participate in all Tuakana training events
 - Organise and attend weekly catch-ups with assigned Teina
- 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 their name, photograph and a short article to be used for the promotion of Unitec.

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 Recipient is guilty of misconduct and after consultation with the Director Student Success or their nominee 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.