

Scholarship & Award Regulations

Āheinga Equity Scholarships - 2023

The following regulations relate to a scholarship offered by Te Pūkenga trading as Unitec (**Unitec**). By applying for the scholarship, you agree to be bound by these regulations.

1. SCHOLARSHIP NAME: Āheinga Equity Scholarships (“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 ākonga to pursue their studies at Unitec.

2.2 Financial hardship has been identified by disabled and neuro diverse ākonga 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 ākonga with education related costs.

2.3 Unitec recognises that financial support is an important consideration for ākonga considering study. The scholarship provides financial and networking support, along with mentoring opportunities.

3. SCHOLARSHIP FINANCIAL VALUE

3.1 The value of the scholarship is \$2,000 for a full year of full-time study; or pro-rata for one semester full-time programmes.

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

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

3.4 Once awarded the scholarship may not be deferred or suspended without the prior written permission of the Director - Student Success.

3.5 Once awarded for a particular programme and School, the Scholarship is not transferrable to another Unitec programme or School, or to any other subsidiary or business division of Te Pūkenga.

4. DURATION

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

5. WHO IS ELIGIBLE

5.1 To apply, you must:

- be a domestic ākonga, for example 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 using the form provided: [Āheinga Equity Scholarship Form - 2023](#). 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 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 you contribute or engage with the disability community 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 the applicants have:

- completed the online application and/or video submission
- enrolled to study a relevant course at Unitec
- enrolled as a domestic ākonga; 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 ākonga and communities. Our strategic vision includes parity goals for Māori, Pacific, and under 25 ākonga, and goals to enhance the success of disabled and neurodiverse ākonga. We also want to manaaki the success of first in family to pursue tertiary education, sole parents, and ākonga with low prior achievement.

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 ākonga who:

- demonstrate that financial support will have an impact on their ability to pursue their studies.
- 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 (“**Committee**”) are made up of at least three members, including at least one representative from the Disability Support Services – Access4success Team and the Director, Student Success (or delegate), as Committee Chair (“**Chair**”).

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

- responses to the scholarship 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

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

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

10. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SELECTION

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

- let ākonga 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 ākonga usually in week eight of semester 1
- manage ongoing eligibility checks, mentoring opportunities, and second payments
- Connect you with the Access4Success Disability Support if requested for additional support

11. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

11.1 Academic progress: Ākonga who are awarded the scholarship are expected to achieve Pass grades for all courses, unless exceptional circumstance prevail. Ākonga 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 Ākonga 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 Committee Chair. The Chair will decide whether to terminate or maintain the scholarship, and will also provide referrals to academic or pastoral assistance, wherever possible, to support the ākonga.

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

12. TERMINATION OF A SCHOLARSHIP

12.1 Your scholarship will be ended/terminated by Unitec 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 Recipients Scholarship for any of the above reasons, after the start of Semester 1 or 2, Unitec may require any Scholarship payment(s) already made be reimbursed to Unitec.

13. OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND CONDITIONS:

- The offer of the Scholarship is made subject to all information provided by the Recipient ("**Recipient**") being true and accurate.
- By accepting the offer of the Scholarship, the Recipient agrees to these Regulations.
- For the duration of this scholarship students are not allowed to hold other Unitec funded scholarships, unless a priority group or equity-based scholarship is approved by the relevant Director and/or Head of School. Students are limited to accessing a maximum of \$5,000 of Unitec scholarship funding per academic year.
- The Recipient is responsible for advising the Scholarships Manager of any changes in circumstances that would make them ineligible for continuation of the Scholarship, e.g. reducing study load to part time, taking leave of absence or deferring study.
- If the recipient is a continuing ākonga they will be invited to support new ākonga through peer-to-peer mentoring.
- 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 Chair case-by-case.
- Unitec is committed to The Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice and ensuring the wellbeing of our ākonga. The scholarships team will track and monitor

recipients and check in throughout the duration of the scholarship.

- 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.

