

Scholarship & Award Regulations

Diverse Gender 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: Diverse Gender Scholarships (“**Scholarship**”)

2. PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

2.1 The purpose of the Scholarship is to encourage and support diverse gender ākonga to pursue tertiary education at Unitec.

2.2 Unitec is committed to providing an inclusive and equitable environment that celebrates diversity. One way to do this is by identifying and addressing barriers that diverse students face when engaged in tertiary study and this scholarship along with financial support is intended to address some of the unique barriers diverse gender students encounter.

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.

3.3 A pro-rata value will also be considered for ākonga who need to study part-time because they are either disabled ākonga or have carers responsibilities as either sole parents or whanau/fanau members.

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.

3.6 Scholarship Recipients may also apply for additional scholarship funding (Approx \$350) to change their name through the Department of Internal Affairs.

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:

- Identify as outside the gender binary. This can include but is not limited to transgender, intersex, gender fluid, gender queer, gender questioning
- be a domestic ākonga, for example a New Zealand citizen or Permanent Resident
- have applied or already be enrolled, full-time (or part-time by exception), 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

6. HOW TO APPLY

6.1 Apply online using the form provided: [Diverse Gender Scholarship Application Form](#). 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:

- why are you studying at Unitec and what are you hoping to do with your qualification after you complete it?
- how will this scholarship help support you with your studies as a diverse gender learner?
- provide contact details for a referee who could tell us how this scholarship will benefit you

6.3 If you are a disabled ākonga, sole parent, or an ākonga with other carer responsibilities, who is applying to study part-time, you will also be asked “how does being able to study part-time remove barriers and help you to succeed in your goals?”

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
- applied to study or are enrolled in a relevant course at Unitec; and
- enrolled as a domestic ākonga

7.2 The Team send all eligible applications out to the ALLY Network 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 ākongā. We also want to manaaki the success of first in family to pursue tertiary education, sole parents, and ākongā with low prior achievement.

8.2 Preference may be given to ākongā who:

- demonstrate that financial support will have an impact on their ability to pursue their studies.
- first-time applicants who have not received the Diverse Gender Scholarship before

9. SELECTION COMMITTEES

9.1 Selection committees (“**Committee**”) are made up of at least three relevant members of Unitec, including the Manager Student Support and Scholarships (or their delegate) as Committee Chair (“**Chair**”) and members of the Ally Unitec community.

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

- responses to the scholarship questions;
- feedback from Referee identified on the application;
- Unitec and Te Pūkenga priority group goals and Committee preferences outlined in 8.1 and 8.2 above

9.3 Shortlisted applicants may be interviewed.

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

9.5 Unitec has complete discretion in assessing applications for the scholarship. Unitec’s decision is final and binding. Ākongā 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 alongside the ALLY Unitec community are the kaitiakitanga of the scholarships process. They will:

Scholarships Team:

- let ākongā 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 ākongā usually in week eight of semester 1
- manage ongoing eligibility checks, mentoring opportunities, and second payments

ALLY Unitec Community:

- Connect you with the ALLY Unitec Network for support if requested

11. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

11.1 Academic progress: ākongā who are awarded the scholarship are expected to achieve Pass grades for all courses, unless exceptional circumstance prevail, 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 Committee 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.