

Scholarship & Award Regulations

Unitec Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Māori Scholarships - Tuakana – 2023

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.

* From 1 October 2022, Unitec will become a business division of its parent entity, Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga). From that date, any references to Unitec shall refer to Te Pūkenga trading as Unitec, a business division of Te Pūkenga. The change of entity will not otherwise have any impact on the scholarship terms outlined below.

1. SCHOLARSHIP NAME: Unitec Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Māori Scholarships – Tuakana (“Scholarship”)

2. PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

2.1 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.

2.2 Unitec recognises that financial support is an important consideration for ākongā considering study. The scholarship provides both financial support and mentoring opportunities.

2.3 Scholarship recipients are expected to be involved and participate in the Unitec Māori Community.

3. SCHOLARSHIP FINANCIAL VALUE

3.1 The value of the scholarship is \$1,000.00 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 four equal payments of \$250.00
- payments are made twice each semester; or
- where the student’s programme is only one semester long by two payments of \$250.00.

3.3 A pro-rata value will also be considered for learners who need to study part-time because they are either disabled learners 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 awarding Director.

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 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 taura Māori, i.e. a New Zealand citizen or Permanent Resident
- be a current full-time taura Māori enrolled in a diploma, degree or postgrad level Unitec programme
- have completed at least 2 semesters of study at Unitec in a certificate, diploma or degree
- be enrolled as a Māori student

6. HOW TO APPLY

6.1 Apply online on the form provided: [Whai Ake Māori Scholarships - 2023 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 statements and questions:

- what is it, that has motivated you to apply for the Whai Ake Tuakana Māori Mentoring Scholarship?
- how will you manage your time if you are a successful applicant of the Whai Ake Māori Mentoring scholarship?
- during the year we have Māori specific events – e.g., Māori Orientation, Whānau Fanau evenings, Kahurangi, Matariki and Te Wiki o te Reo. As they come up, the Te Pou Manawa, and/or Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator will be in touch with you to seek support in some of these events. Please describe how you can contribute to these events.

You will also be asked to complete a [Pepehā](#). There are Unitec kaitiaki who will help you complete this if you need assistance.

6.3 If you are a disabled learner, sole parent, or a learner 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 applicants have:

- completed the online application and/or video submission;
- completed at least one year of study in a relevant programme at Unitec;
- enrolled as a New Zealand citizen or Permanent Resident; and
- enrolled as a Māori student

7.2 The Team send all eligible applications to the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator and Māori Success Scholarship Selection Committee for review.

7.3 Approximately fifteen (15) Tuakana scholarships will be awarded - 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 neurodiverse learners. 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 learners who:

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

9. SELECTION COMMITTEES

9.1 Selection committees ("**Committee**") are made up of at least three relevant members of Unitec. The Scholarships Selection Committee will be chaired by the Director Māori Success ("**Chair**"), or their nominee, and will include Te Pou Manawa and the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator.

The committee review all eligible applications received and will short-list applicants based on a combination of:

- responses to the scholarship application questions;
- the preference criteria stipulated in clauses 8.1 and 8.2.

9.2 Shortlisted Candidates will be asked to attend an interview. Only those who attend an interview will be considered for the scholarship. The committee will make final award recommendations based on the interview.

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. 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 work alongside the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator to support the scholarships process. Together, they will:

- let students know scholarship application outcomes and request required documentation for payment
- check enrolments at week three of the semester as the final eligibility check
- manage ongoing eligibility checks and payments

11. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

11.1 Academic progress: Learners who are awarded the scholarship ("**Recipient**") are expected to maintain a minimum B minus average (minimum GPA 3.5) per semester unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

11.2 Recipients must attend two academic progress meetings each semester with Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator.

11.3 Learners who fail to maintain the minimum GPA outlined in 11.1 will be assisted by the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator to explain their circumstances via a breach appeals process.

11.4 Appeals are considered by the awarding scholarship selection Committee Chair. The Chair will decide whether to terminate, suspend or maintain the scholarship, and will also suggest academic assistance, wherever possible, to support the learner.

11.5 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.

11.6 Whai Ake Programme requirements: Learners must participate in and attend:

- Weekly Whai Ake evenings every Thursday 5-7pm for the duration of their first year
- 2 Noho Marae throughout the year (usually in April and September)
- Regular academic and pastoral support (workshops at Whai Ake evenings and one on one support)
- All Tuakana training events
- Weekly catch-ups with assigned Teina, as organised by the Tuakana

11.7 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 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 Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator 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.
- 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.
- During the year Unitec have Māori specific events – e.g. Māori Orientation, Whānau Fanau evenings, Kahurangi, Matariki and Te Wiki o te Reo. As they come up, the Te Pou Manawa, and/or Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Academic Co-ordinator will be in touch with you to seek support in some of these events.
- Unitec is committed to The Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice and ensuring the wellbeing of our learners. 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 Te Pūkenga and/or Unitec.
- The Scholarship is not transferrable or exchangeable.