

Scholarship & Award Regulations

Unitec Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarships - 2024

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: Unitec Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarships (“**Scholarship**”)

2. PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

2.1 The purpose of the Scholarship is to provide financial support to high achieving Pacific ākonga in a 240 credit or more undergraduate diploma or bachelor level programme at Unitec, who are motivated to make a positive difference in society.

2.2 Unitec recognises that financial support is an important consideration for our ākonga in managing their next steps. The scholarship provides both financial support and mentoring opportunities.

2.3 Pacific ākonga who can demonstrate academic excellence, are committed to applying the essence of Ako – where everyone teaches and everyone learns, and have at least one-semester or more of study remaining to complete their current undergraduate diploma or bachelor degree are encouraged to apply.

2.4 Scholarship recipients are expected to be involved and participate in the Unitec Pacific Community.

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 study.

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
- by one payment of \$1,000.00 where an ākonga only has one semester left to complete their programme.

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 scholarships team.

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 they only have one semester of study left to complete, 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;
- be enrolled as a Pacific ākonga;
- have completed and passed a minimum of 120 credits within your current undergraduate diploma or bachelor level programme at Unitec;
- be continuing in your current programme of study as a full-time (or pre-approved part-time) student; and
- have a GPA of 6.0 (which equates to a B+ average) or above, in your most recent semester of study for graded courses, or all PASS grades for Pass/Fail courses.

6. HOW TO APPLY

6.1 Apply online using the form provided.

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

- what are you studying and what motivates you to succeed in your studies?
- in what ways do you think your study enables you to make a positive difference in society now (immediately) and in the future (long-term)? It would be great to see examples of how you have helped communities you belong to such as your hāpori, marae, hapū, iwi, church or other community that you belong to.
- during the year we have Unitec events for ākonga. These include Māori and Pacific Orientations, Whānau/Fanau evenings, Te Wiki o te Reo & Pacific Island language weeks, events for Disabled and Neurodiverse ākonga, Ally Network and Under 25 ākonga. Please describe how you can contribute to events that connect to your identity.
- how will this scholarship help support you with your studies?

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;
- maintained enrolment in an undergraduate diploma or bachelor level programme, at Unitec;
- have a minimum of one semester of full-time study or pre-approved part-time study, left to complete their undergraduate diploma or bachelor level programme;
- have a GPA of 6.0 or above or Pass grades for all courses that are Pass/Fail only, in their most recent semester of study;

- enrolled as a Pacific domestic ākonga

7.2 The Team will add the ākonga GPA scores from their most recent semester of Unitec study to all eligible applications. They then send the applications to the Pacific 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 Preference may be given to ākonga who:

- demonstrate that financial support will have an impact on their ability to pursue their studies.

9. SELECTION COMMITTEES

9.1 Selection committees (“**Committee**”) are made up of at least three relevant members of Unitec.

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

- GPA scores;
- responses to the scholarship questions; and
- Unitec and Te Pūkenga priority group goals and Committee preferences outlined in 8.1 and 8.2 above

9.2 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

11. ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

11.1 Academic progress: Ākonga who are awarded the scholarship are expected to continue to do well in their studies. They must maintain a B plus average (minimum GPA 6.0) or a Pass grade for all courses that are Pass/Fail only.

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. The Committee 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 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 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.