

Scholarship & Award Regulations

Unitec Āheinga Equity Scholarships – 2024

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

*Unitec is a business division of its parent entity, Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga). Any references to Unitec refer to Te Pūkenga trading as Unitec, a business division of Te Pūkenga.

1. SCHOLARSHIP NAME: Unitec 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 neurodiverse ākongā to pursue their studies at Unitec.

2.2 Financial hardship has been identified by disabled and neurodiverse ākongā 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 ākongā with education related costs.

2.3 Unitec recognises that financial support is an important consideration for ākongā considering study. The scholarship provides both financial support and mentoring opportunities in the first year of study.

3. SCHOLARSHIP FINANCIAL VALUE

3.1 The value of the scholarship is \$2,000.00 for a full year of full-time study; or pro-rata for one semester full-time programmes.

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

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

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

3.4 You may not defer or suspend the scholarship without the prior written permission of the awarding School or 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 an ākongā 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 ākongā, i.e. a New Zealand citizen or Permanent Resident.

- have applied to, or enrolled, full-time or part-time, in an undergraduate certificate, diploma or degree, or a postgraduate certificate or diploma (Level 3 to 8) 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 Complete the online application form. Support is available for ākonga through our Scholarship Advisor. Please book an appointment early and prior to the application deadline if you would like to discuss or seek support with your application: <https://guides.unitec.ac.nz/scholarships>

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

- what will you be studying at Unitec in 2024 and what are your career aspirations after you complete your study?
- what motivates you to succeed in your studies?
- 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 applicants have:

- completed the online application
- enrolled or applied to study a relevant course at Unitec
- enrolled or applied as a New Zealand citizen or Permanent Resident; 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 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 ākongā 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 relevant members of Unitec.

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

- responses to the scholarship application questions
- the preference criteria stipulated in clause 8.1 through 8.3 above

9.3 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 at scholarships@unitec.ac.nz for feedback on their scholarship application outcome.

10. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SELECTION

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

- let ākongā know scholarship application outcomes
- check enrolment and set up first payment – usually paid to ākongā in week six or 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: Ākongā who are awarded the scholarship are expected to achieve Pass grades for all courses, unless exceptional circumstances prevail. Ākongā 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 Ākongā 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 Chair will decide whether to terminate or maintain the scholarship, and will also suggest academic assistance, wherever possible, to support the ākongā.

11.4 Unitec Enrolment: ākongā 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.

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 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 ākonga are not allowed to hold other Unitec funded scholarships, unless a priority group or equity-based scholarship is approved by the Selection Committee. Ākonga are limited to accessing a maximum of \$5,000 of Unitec funded scholarships 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.
- 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.
- 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 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 Te Pūkenga and/or Unitec.
- The Scholarship is not transferrable or exchangeable.