

Scholarship & Award Regulations

Unitec Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Māori Scholarships - Teina– 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 Whai Ake i te Ara Tika Māori Scholarships – Teina – (“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 ākonga 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 \$2,000.00 for a full year of full-time study; or pro-rata for one semester full-time programmes.

- The scholarship is provided to ākonga to cover education related costs and is paid:
- In four equal payments of \$500.00
- payments are made twice each semester; or
- where the ākonga programme is only one semester long by two payment of \$500.00.

3.2 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.

3.3 You may not defer or suspend the scholarship without the prior written permission of the awarding Director.

3.4 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. If recipients are progressing to a level 4 or above programme in semester 2, and have met the eligibility criteria, they may apply to the Director Māori Success to continue and extend their scholarship for Semester 2.

New enrolments for the Whai Ake i te Ara Tika scholarship will not be available in semester 2

5. WHO'S ELIGIBLE

5.1 To apply, you must:

- be a domestic taura Māori, i.e. a New Zealand citizen or Permanent Resident
- have enrolled, full-time or part-time, in a Semester 1 undergraduate certificate, diploma or degree, or a postgraduate certificate or diploma (Level 3 to 8) that takes at least one semester of fulltime study to complete.
- be enrolled as a Māori student

6. HOW TO APPLY

6.1 Complete the online application form. Support and guidance for how to apply is available for ākonga through our Scholarship's application page: <https://guides.unitec.ac.nz/scholarships>. Please review the guidance documents and complete your applications prior to the application deadline. If you have any specific questions relating to the scholarship application please email: scholarships@unitec.ac.nz

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 Māori 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 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 applicants have:

- completed the online application;
- applied to study a relevant course at Unitec;
- enrolled as a New Zealand citizen or Permanent Resident; and
- enrolled as a Māori ākonga

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

7.3 Approximately fifteen (15) Teina scholarships will be awarded - 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 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:

- Are new to Unitec and in their first year of study
- Are aged between 18-25 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 ("**Committee Committee**"), or their nominee and will include 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 clause 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. Ākonga 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. 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: ākonga who are awarded the scholarship are expected to maintain a minimum B minus average (minimum GPA 3.5) per semester, unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

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

11.3 Ākonga 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 Committee Chair will decide whether to terminate, suspend or maintain the scholarship, and will also suggest academic assistance, wherever possible, to support the ākonga.

11.5 Unitec Enrolment: ākonga 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: ākonga must participate in and attend:

- Weekly Whai Ake evenings every Tuesday and Thursday 5-7pm for the duration of their first year as a Teina.
- Noho Marae throughout the year (usually in May)
- Regular academic and pastoral support (workshops at Whai Ake evenings and one on one support)
- Weekly meetings with assigned Tuakana

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 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 Te Pūkenga and/or Unitec.
- The Scholarship is not transferrable or exchangeable.