Pong, Tams and Ko Scholarship for Students with Disabilities

**Description**

The Scholarship was established in 2019 and is funded by Jeffrey Pong Chiu Fai, Raymond Tam Man Kin, Ronald Tam Man Hong and Grant Ko Lun.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to encourage and assist students with sensory, physical, medical and/or learning difficulties/disabilities with the cost of their studies at the University of Auckland.

**Selection process**

- Application is made to the Scholarships Office
- A Selection Committee assesses the applications
- The Scholarship is awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Selection Committee

**Regulations**

1. The Scholarship will be known as the Pong, Tams and Ko Scholarship for Students with Disabilities.
2. One or more Scholarships will be awarded annually, each for a period of up to one year, and will be of the value of up to $8,000 in total. Payments to part time students may be pro-rated. A recipient of the Scholarship may reapply in subsequent years.
3. To take up and be paid the Scholarship, the candidate must be enrolled full-time or part-time in an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Auckland.
4. The Scholarship is tenable by domestic and international students who have disclosed disabilities to Student Disability Services (see Note I).
5. The basis of selection will be the personal circumstances of candidates as outlined in a personal statement and academic achievement. A grade point average (GPA) or grade point equivalent (GPE) of at least 3.50 is required for consideration for the Scholarship (see Note II).
6. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
Committee comprising the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity) (or nominee), the Manager of Students with Disabilities (or nominee) and a representative of the donors.

7. The Scholarship will be paid as in two equal instalments in Semester One and Semester Two. Payments to part-time students may be pro-rated. To be paid the second instalment, recipients will be required to achieve a GPA of at least 3.50 in Semester One (see Note III).

8. The Scholarship may be held with any other scholarship, award or grant as long as a) the terms of that scholarship, award or grant permit and b) the University of Auckland Council is informed and approves.

9. The University of Auckland Council has the power to terminate or suspend a scholarship if it receives a report of unsatisfactory progress of a Scholar from the relevant Head of School or Department.

10. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if in any year there is no candidate of sufficient merit.

11. The University of Auckland, in consultation with the donor, has the power to amend or vary these regulations provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

12. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 30 January in the year of the award.

13. Notes [I]-[VI] below are deemed to be Regulations.

Notes

I. Student Disability Services supports students with both visible and invisible impairments including: blind and low vision, Deaf and hearing impaired, head injury, ongoing medical conditions, diagnosed mental health conditions, physical/mobility impairments, speech impairments, Autism Spectrum Disorder, specific learning disabilities (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia).

II. For the purpose of this scholarship, academic achievement for students entering their first year of study is based on results at level two or higher in the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) or an equivalent qualification. For students entering their second year, academic achievement is assessed as a Scholarships grade point average (GPA) or grade point equivalent (GPE) obtained over the applicant’s first year of full-time, or equivalent if part-time, graded study. For students entering their third or subsequent years, academic achievement is assessed as a Scholarships GPA or GPE obtained over the applicant’s most recent two years of full-time, or equivalent if part-time, graded study.

III. For the purposes of this Scholarship, the recipient’s grade point average (GPA) is based on all the courses they undertake in each semester of study. A GPA of 3.50 is equivalent to between a C+ and B- average.

IV. In making a recommendation for this Scholarship, the Selection Committee shall take into account other scholarships, bursaries and awards held by the candidates, with a view of achieving a fair distribution of monies to qualifying candidates.

V. Payments under the terms of this Scholarship remain tax-free as long as they are used directly for the payment of costs associated with an awardee’s programme of study. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the scholarship.

VI. Recipients of a Pong, Tams and Ko Scholarship for Students with Disabilities will be required to give undertakings that they will comply with the regulations for the Scholarship and will notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment, employment or funding status. The University of Auckland may, in the event it can be established that a recipient of a Pong, Tams and Ko Scholarship for Students with Disabilities is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.

VII. These regulations are subject to Senate and Council approval.