Rachel and James Wadham Scholarship for Law Students from a Refugee Background

**Description**

The Scholarship was established in 2021 and is funded by Rachel and James Wadham, alumni of the University of Auckland.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to mitigate the financial barriers faced by students from refugee backgrounds so that they can access undergraduate study and the transformative potential of a tertiary qualification.

**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 Rachel and James Wadham Scholarship for Law Students from a Refugee Background.
2. One Scholarship will be awarded annually for a period of up to one year and will be of the value of up to $8,000. Recipients of the Scholarship may reapply in subsequent years.
3. To be eligible for Scholarship consideration, an applicant must be i) a citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand, ii) come from a refugee background (see Note I), and iii) enrolled or enrolling full-time in a Bachelor of Laws (LLB), LLB(Hons) or associated conjoint degree. A grade point average (GPA) or grade point equivalent (GPE) of at least 3.50 is required for Scholarship consideration.
4. The basis of selection will be academic achievement and demonstrated financial need (see Notes II to III).
5. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Dean of the Faculty of Law (or nominee), and two academic staff members nominated by the Dean.
To be paid the Scholarship, the awardee must be enrolled full-time in an LLB, LLB(Hons) or associated conjoint degree.

The Scholarship will be paid in two equal instalments in Semester One and Two, as soon as is practical after confirmation of the awardee’s enrolment (that is, after the final date on which a student may add or delete courses without incurring a late enrolment fee).

The Scholarship may be held with any other scholarship, award or grant as long as the regulations for that scholarship, award or grant permit and the University of Auckland Council is informed and approved. It is the responsibility of the awardee to declare to the Scholarships Office all other scholarships, awards or grant funding received and for which the awardee receives payment while also in payment for this Scholarship.

The University of Auckland Council, in consultation with the donor, has the power to terminate or suspend a scholarship if it receives a report of unsatisfactory progress of a Scholar from the Dean of the Faculty of Law.

The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if it is determined there is no candidate that meets the criteria and/or no candidate of sufficient merit.

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

Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 15 March in the year of the award.

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

Notes

I. Refugee background refers to students who have themselves or whose parents/primary guardian(s) have been granted refuge in New Zealand.

II. Financial need will be determined by a range of factors including eligibility for a StudyLink Student Allowance, and personal and financial circumstances. Applicants need to demonstrate that they are experiencing financial hardship and that they are struggling to meet basic living costs. Incurred debt is not evidence of financial hardship.

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

IV. 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 and/or to assist the awardee with living costs while studying. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Scholarship.

V. Awardees will be required to give undertakings that they will comply with the regulations for the Scholarship and must notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment or funding status. The University of Auckland may, in the event that it can be established that an awardee is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.

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

Scholarships Office

scholarships@auckland.ac.nz

www.scholarships.auckland.ac.nz

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