Strong Bear Undergraduate Scholarship

**Description**

The Scholarship was established in 2020 and is funded by Rob Vickery, a venture capitalist who immigrated to New Zealand with his family in 2020. The Strong Bear Undergraduate Scholarship is inspired by the Vickery’s young son and their desire to assist Māori and Pasifika students who are studying the arts.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to support a Māori or Pacific student enrolling in the first year of a degree in the Faculty of Arts or the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries at the University of Auckland who, because of financial hardship, may not otherwise be able to undertake a university degree.

**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 Strong Bear Undergraduate Scholarship.
2. One Scholarship will be awarded for a period of up to three years of study and will be of the value of $8,000 per annum.
3. The Scholarship may be offered to students intending to enrol full-time in the first year of a Bachelor Arts, Bachelor of Global Studies or associated conjoint degree in the Faculty of Arts, or a Bachelor of Architectural Studies, Bachelor of Dance Studies, Bachelor of Design, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music or associated conjoint degree in the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries at the University of Auckland.
4. The Scholarship is tenable by Māori or Pacific students who are New Zealand citizens or permanent residents (see Note II).
5. The basis of selection will be academic merit based on results at Level 2 or higher in the National Certificate of
Educational Achievement (NCEA) or an equivalent qualification, a personal statement outlining the candidate’s motivation to succeed at university and demonstrated financial hardship (see Note III).

6. 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 Arts (or nominee), the Dean of the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries (or nominee) and a representative of the Donor.

7. The Scholarship will be paid as a tuition fees credit in each semester of enrolment. Remaining funds will be paid in a lump sum in the third week of the second semester each year. If the recipient’s fees have already been covered by any fee paying scheme, scholarship or award, the value of the Strong Bear Undergraduate Scholarship may be paid in a lump sum in each semester of enrolment to assist the recipient with living costs (see Note I).

8. As a condition of tenure, recipients will be required to maintain a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 (equivalent to a C+ average) in each semester of study (see Note IV).

9. 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 approves. It is the responsibility of the recipient 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.

10. 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 Head of the Department or School in which the recipient is enrolled.

11. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if in any year there are not candidates of sufficient merit.

12. 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.

13. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 1 November in the year preceding the award.

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

Notes

I. Tuition/Compulsory fees are only those related to the relevant programme of study, plus Student Services Fee.

II. Pacific applicants are defined as citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand who are of indigenous Pacific descent from any of the following islands: Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Fiji, Rotuma, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Wallis and Futuna, Hawaii, French Polynesia, Rapanui (Easter Island).

III. Financial need will be determined by a range of factors including eligibility for a StudyLink Student Allowance, and personal and financial circumstances.

IV. 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.

V. Recipients must be enrolled continuously in their programme of study. Deferrals for students who have already commenced their degree will not usually be approved unless there are compelling medical or adverse personal circumstances beyond the student’s control.

VI. Deferral requests must be made in writing to the Scholarships Office.

VII. If a student enrols at another tertiary institution in New Zealand, the scholarship will lapse.

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

IX. Recipients of a Strong Bear Undergraduate Scholarship 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 or funding status. The University of Auckland may, in the event that it can be established that a recipient of a Strong Bear Undergraduate Scholarship is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.