

# University of Auckland Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarship

<b>Code:</b>	902
<b>Faculty:</b>	All
<b>Applicable study:</b>	First three full-time years of an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Auckland for Pacific students
<b>Closing date:</b>	2 September
<b>Tenure:</b>	Three years
<b>For:</b>	Accommodation and study assistance
<b>Number on offer:</b>	Up to 25
<b>Offer rate:</b>	Annually
<b>Value:</b>	\$20,000 paid over three years, comprising a guaranteed funded place in University of Auckland catered accommodation in the first year and four lump sum payments in the second and third years (see Regs. 2 & 3)

## Description

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The Scholarship was established in 2016 and is funded by the University of Auckland.

The main purpose of the Scholarship is to recognise and reward exceptional academic performance combined with outstanding sporting, artistic, cultural and / or leadership achievements among Pacific students. The provision of University accommodation is designed to provide the best student experience and promote excellent academic outcomes.

## Selection process

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

## Regulations

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1. The Scholarship will be known as the University of Auckland Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarship.
2. Up to 25 Scholarships will be awarded annually, each for the first three years of the scholar's undergraduate degree, or at the discretion of the Review Committee, for the Certificate of Health Sciences year plus the first two years of an undergraduate programme, and will be of a maximum value of \$20,000 each.
3. The Scholarship will cover the full cost of the first year of catered accommodation in a standard room in a University of Auckland Hall of Residence. This cost will be paid directly to the relevant Halls of Residence (see Notes I-III). The balance of the award will be paid, in years two and three as lump sums in Week 3 of Semesters 1 and 2.
4. The Scholarship will be offered to top domestic Pacific scholars who are citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand, currently in their final year of study at a New Zealand secondary school and intending to enrol full-time in an

undergraduate degree or a Certificate of Health Sciences followed by an undergraduate degree at the University of Auckland in the following year. Applications may also be considered from students who have studied at least until the end of Year 11 at a New Zealand secondary school and who, at the time of application are studying overseas in either an NCEA, IB or CIE programme, or who have completed an NCEA, IB or CIE programme within the year of application (see Notes IV to VII).

5. The initial basis of selection will be academic ability based on results of their previous year's study at Level 2 or higher in the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) or an equivalent qualification. Other selection criteria include cultural participation in Pacific contexts, demonstrated leadership potential, achievement in academic, sports or arts competitions, recognition within the community, motivation to attend and likelihood to succeed at a research-led University. Applicants' level of preparedness for university study will also be assessed by considering their performance to date in subjects relevant to their intended degree. The personal circumstances of applicants will also be taken in to consideration including: demonstrated financial need, the decile of the most recent secondary school attended, if the applicant is the first in their family to attend university, if the applicant comes from a refugee background, if the student has a disability and if the applicant resides in a rural area (see Notes VI to VIII).
6. To go into payment of the Scholarship, the awardee must have gained admission to the University of Auckland with at least an NCEA rank score of 240, a CIE rank score of 300 or an IB score of 32; these rank scores are equivalent to a University of Auckland grade point equivalent (GPE) of 5.00.
7. As a condition of tenure recipients will be required to undertake full-time study for a degree at the University of Auckland, or the Certificate of Health Sciences followed by degree level study, and achieve a passing grade in all courses in each semester of study (see Notes IX to XIV).
8. The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of a Review Committee comprising the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity) (or nominee), Director of the Centre for Pacific Studies (or nominee), Director of the Schools Partnership Office (or nominee) and an Academic staff representative nominated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). In addition, all awarding recommendations will be endorsed by the Entry Level Review Committee.
9. The starting date for Scholarship funding will be either Semester 1 or Semester 2, in accordance with the recipient's enrolment, in the year immediately following the final year of secondary study (see Notes IX to XIV).
10. A University of Auckland Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarship may not be held concurrently with a University of Auckland Top Achiever Scholarship, a University of Auckland Māori Academic Excellence Scholarship or a University of Auckland Academic Potential Scholarship. However, it may be held with any other scholarship, award or grant where the regulations for that scholarship, award or grant permit and where the University of Auckland Council is informed and so 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.
11. The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make the full number of awards if in any year there are not candidates of sufficient merit.
12. The University of Auckland has 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 2 September in the year preceding the award.
14. Notes [I]-[XVI] below are deemed to be Regulations.

## Notes

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- I. *University of Auckland Halls of Residence include: University Hall - Towers, O'Rorke Hall, Grafton Hall and Waipārūrū Hall.*
- II. *All students will be required to accept and take up a place in a University of Auckland Hall of Residence as a condition of holding a University of Auckland Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarship. Exceptions to the requirement to take up the accommodation component will be considered only under exceptional circumstances and on a case by case basis.*

- III. *Students need to make a separate application for University accommodation by the relevant deadline date.*
- IV. *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).*
- V. *A University of Auckland Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarship must be applied for in the final year of study at a New Zealand secondary school. Students who wish to take a gap year or who do not intend to enrol at University directly after completing their final year of study are also required to apply for this Scholarship while they are in their final year.*
- VI. *For the purpose of this Scholarship, a rural area is defined as an area outside the local authority boundaries of city councils in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Porirua, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, Christchurch, and Dunedin.*
- VII. *For the purpose of this Scholarship, 'first in family' to attend university means the first member in their family, including parents and siblings, to enrol at a university. Adoptive and step parents and siblings are considered part of the nuclear family where they have lived with the applicant for the previous five or more years.*
- VIII. *Refugee background refers to students who have themselves or whose parents/primary guardian(s) have been granted refuge in New Zealand.*
- IX. *Students intending to commence study in Semester 2 are advised to seek academic advice from their faculty and to enrol in their proposed courses well before Semester 1 commences.*
- X. *Except in cases where there are compelling medical reasons or adverse personal circumstances beyond a student's control, the uptake of scholarships cannot be deferred. Students who are offered a University of Auckland Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarship but who do not take it up in the year of offer may request that their application be reconsidered in the intake of applications for the year immediately following.*
- XI. *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.*
- XII. *Deferral requests must be made in writing to the Scholarships Office.*
- XIII. *If a student enrolls at another tertiary institution in New Zealand, the Scholarship will lapse.*
- XIV. *Recipients who take up this Scholarship but do not complete at least four semesters of study at the University of Auckland or who withdraw their enrolment in any semester after payment has been made, will be required to pay back the full sum of monies received.*
- XV. *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.*
- XVI. *Recipients of a University of Auckland Pacific Academic Excellence 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 University of Auckland Pacific Academic Excellence Scholarship is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received from the date of the breach.*