

Leaupepe Elisapeta (Peta) Karalus Scholarship 2026 Regulations

BACKGROUND

The Leaupepe Elisapeta (Peta) Karalus Scholarships were established in 2020 by the Waikato Institute of Technology Limited (Wintec) to enable more opportunities for Pacific people to pursue study at a degree level in the areas of health and social practice. The scholarships are named after Peta Karalus in recognition of her significant contribution and valued work in the Pacific community.

The purpose of the scholarship is to assist students to undertake full-time study, towards a qualification at Wintec.

Peta is a well-known community figure and health professional, with a relentless passion for helping the Pacific community. She established K'aute Pasifika, a Pacific - focused service to enable the health and wellbeing of Pacific people in Hamilton and the wider Waikato region. Peta was also a former staff member and tutor at Wintec's nursing school in the late 1990s. In 2006 Peta was awarded Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the Pacific Islands community. She was awarded an Honorary Fellowship from Wintec in 2019 for her significant contribution to health and education for the Pacific community.

The scholarship is awarded based on personal character, desire to achieve degree-level study and involvement in cultural and community life. Four scholarships will be awarded annually and will cover the tuition fees for the duration of the degree, subject to the conditions of the scholarship being met each year of study.

CONDITIONS

1. The scholarship shall be known as The Leaupepe Elisapeta (Peta) Karalus Scholarship.
2. Applicants must apply on the required scholarship application form and all complete applications will be assessed by a selection panel. The panel will include the Wintec Strategic Lead Pacific, the Group Director of the Centre for Health and Social Practice (or their designate), and an appointed community member.
3. Short listed applicants may be required to attend an interview with the scholarship selection panel.
4. An online scholarship application form will be available on the Wintec [Leaupepe Elisapeta \(Peta\) Karalus Scholarship](#) webpage.
5. The scholarship will be awarded upon confirmation of enrolment, for the tuition fees per year for the for the duration of a recipient's qualification, from the year the scholarship is awarded i.e. a maximum of three or four years for a degree. The scholarship will not cover course related costs or sundry fees.
6. The tuition fees will be credited directly against a student's finance account once their enrolment has been confirmed and, where appropriate, fees will be refunded directly to the original payee (i.e. StudyLink).
7. Recipients across all years of study are eligible to apply for the scholarship. The scholarship will not be awarded in retrospect for any previous year's study. Tuition fees will only be credited for the remaining years of study once the scholarship is awarded.
8. Scholarship recipients must pass all the modules they are enrolled in each semester, to be entitled for the tuition fee payment to be credited for their next academic year. The Group Director, or their delegate, can terminate the tenure of the scholarship if a recipient fails to obtain passing grades in any year of study covered by the scholarship.
9. Recipients who commence study in July (semester two) are eligible to apply for the scholarship. Successful recipients will be required to pass all modules each semester for their tuition fees to be credited for the following semester. In this situation the crediting of tuition fees will be applied each semester rather than annually.
10. The scholarship is not transferrable to any other Wintec qualification or another tertiary institution – subject to Item 11.
11. The selection panel may agree to a transfer of the scholarship to another Wintec qualification for an individual recipient if the majority agree. Applications should be emailed to the Scholarship Administrator at scholarships@wintec.ac.nz for consideration by the panel. A decision will be made on a case-by-case basis and will not set a precedent for other recipients.

12. A recipient may apply to have their scholarship deferred for an agreed period, on a case-by-case basis, should they need to take a break from study. A scholarship may be deferred no more than twice during its tenure. Applications should be submitted via email to the Scholarship Administrator at scholarships@wintec.ac.nz for consideration by Komiti Āpiti Karahipi.
13. The scholarship may be held together with any other bursary, grant, prize or student allowance unless the conditions of the other funding preclude this. However, this scholarship will still only apply to the payment of tuition fees.
14. Recipients are encouraged to access student support from Te Kete Manaaki and or Centre specific scholarship support at any time during the semesters for support with their learning for the duration of their scholarship.
15. The selection panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.
16. The offer of a scholarship must be accepted by the date indicated in the letter of offer. If any candidate declines or does not take up the scholarship, the selection panel may offer the scholarship to another applicant.
17. The decision of the selection panel is final, and no further correspondence will be entered into.
18. By acceptance the scholarship, recipients agree to participate in publicity regarding the scholarships as arranged by Wintec.
19. The closing date for applications is **5pm Friday 31 October 2025**. The closing date may be extended as required. All applications and supporting documents must be submitted, using the online application form available on the Wintec [Leaupepe Elisapeta \(Peta\) Karalus Scholarship](#) webpage.
20. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
21. The scholarship winners will be announced by Friday 12 December 2025.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Applicants for the scholarship must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and must be able to provide evidence of Pacific heritage or genealogy.
2. Applicants for the scholarship must have applied or currently studying a degree level programme, full-time in the Centre for Health and Social Practice.
3. Applicants must complete the prescribed scholarship application form and provide the following supporting documents:
 - A written personal statement, video or voice recording outlining how this scholarship will assist the applicant in furthering their career aspirations; how it will support their personal development and their potential contribution to the community. This should also include a brief korero on their connection with their Pacific communities and their lived experience within these communities.
 - A reference, for this scholarship must not be a relative of the applicant. The referee should be someone who is familiar with the applicant's character, achievements, or potential, and who can speak to how the applicant aligns with the values and goals of the scholarship. If you choose a Wintec tutor as your referee, you must also provide an additional external reference, such as an employer, community or church leader, sports coach, etc. You can find the scholarship referee questionnaire [here](#).
 - A current Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume.