

Mana Whenua Scholarship 2026 Regulations

BACKGROUND

In 2021 Te Kuratini O Waikato (Wintec) met with mana whenua (hapū) as part of its commitment to continue to foster an enduring relationship. An outcome from hui held with mana whenua was the provision of mana whenua scholarships with whom Te Kuratini has a relationship with.

Te Kuratini has always recognised the hapū of Waikato and the special relationship that these hapū have with Te Kōpū Mānia O Kirikiriroa. The Mana Whenua scholarships expand on the current scholarships that Te Kuratini provides, specifically the Dame Te Ātairangikaahu and Hare Puke scholarships. The scholarships acknowledge the continued presence that mana whenua have in the Waikato, Maniapoto and Hauraki regions and the systemic challenges their tribal members continue to face with regards to entering the tertiary educational system. Our organisation also provides knowledge and skills from various fields within the vocational sector, which will equip ākonga to serve, support, and facilitate the realisation of the aspirations and ambitions of their whānau, hapū, iwi, and the wider communities where they reside.

A total of 27 scholarships will be awarded in 2026; each scholarship will be up to a maximum of \$2,000 towards the cost of the recipient's tuition fees in a single year of enrolment.

CONDITIONS

1. The scholarship shall be known as the Mana Whenua Scholarship.
2. Applicants must apply on the required scholarship application form and all complete applications will be assessed by the Komiti Āpiti Karahipi.
3. Shortlisted applicants may be required to attend an interview with the scholarship selection panel either in person or by other communication platforms such as zoom, teams or other IT applications.
4. An online scholarship application form will be available on the Wintec [Mana Whenua Scholarship](#) webpage.
5. The scholarship will be applied to the tuition fees of a recipient's programme of study in the year it is granted.
6. The scholarship will be credited directly against a recipient's student finance account once their enrolment has been confirmed and, where appropriate, fees up to a maximum of \$2,000 will be refunded directly to the original payee (e.g. StudyLink).
7. Recipients of scholarships may apply in subsequent years for a further scholarship when entering their next year of study. The scholarship will not be awarded in retrospect for any previous year's study.
8. The scholarship is not transferrable to any other Wintec qualification or another tertiary institution – subject to Item 9.
9. 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.
10. 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.

11. 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 up to a maximum of \$2,000.
12. Recipients are encouraged to access student support from Te Kete Manaaki at any time during the semesters for support with their learning.
13. The selection panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.
14. The offer of a scholarship must be accepted and returned by the date indicated in the letter of offer. If a recipient declines or does not take up the scholarship, the selection panel may offer the scholarship to another applicant.
15. The decision of the selection panel is final, and no further correspondence will be entered into.
16. By accepting the scholarship, recipients agree to participate in publicity regarding the scholarships as arranged by Wintec.
17. All applications and supporting documents must be submitted, using the online application form available on the Wintec [Mana Whenua Scholarship](#) webpage.
18. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
19. The scholarship winners will be contacted directly by Wintec staff.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Applicants for the scholarship must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and registered or endorsed by their affiliated iwi, hapū or marae recognised as mana whenua by the Ngā Manu Taupunga senior Māori leadership group of Wintec for the catchment area of Wintec.
2. Applicants for the scholarship must have applied to or currently be studying at Wintec.
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 their whānau, hapū, iwi and community.
 - A referee, for this scholarship should be someone who is familiar with your character, achievements, or potential, and who can speak to how you align with the values and goals of the scholarship. It is preferable that your referee is from your iwi, hapu, or marae. However, we will accept references from a high school teacher, employer, community/church leader or sports coach etc. The Māori Achievement Unit will confirm your whakapapa with an endorsement from Mana Whenua. 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](#).

Applicants may apply in English or Māori.