



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(IN THE NAME OF GOD, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL)

الجمعية الإسلامية – واكاتو

**WAIKATO MUSLIM ASSOCIATION (INC).**

## **The University of Waikato - Waikato Muslim Association (WMA) Fees Bursary 2026 Eligibility Criteria and Selection Process**

### **1. Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible, students must:

- 1.1 Be current members of the Muslim community in the Waikato region.
- 1.2 Be enrolled or have applied for enrollment (full-time or part-time) at the University of Waikato in an undergraduate, postgraduate, or doctoral/MPhil programme.
- 1.3 Be adequately prepared for tertiary study to complete their chosen programme successfully.
- 1.4 Qualify for domestic fees status (i.e. NZ Citizen, NZ Permanent Resident, NZ Resident Class Visa holder, or Australian Citizen/Permanent Resident residing in NZ).
- 1.5 Previous recipients can be nominated again as long as they have passed all their courses or received positive progress reports during the scholarship period.
- 1.5 Recipients are ineligible if they have tuition fees paid (in part or full) by another scholarship, award, bursary, prize, or the Government's Fees-Free scheme.

### **2. Maintaining Eligibility**

To maintain eligibility, recipients must:

- 2.1 Remain a member of the Muslim community in the Waikato region during the award tenure.
- 2.2 Avoid receiving tuition fee support from other scholarships, awards, bursaries, prizes, or the Government's Fees-Free scheme.
- 2.3 Be accepted into and maintain enrollment (full-time or part-time) in at least one trimester of an eligible degree program at the University of Waikato.

### **3. WMA Selection Criteria**

Candidates will be evaluated based on the following:

- 3.1 Academic performance, with a minimum “B” average required in previous academic years.
- 3.2 Active involvement in the Waikato Muslim community and/or masjid activities.
- 3.3 Demonstrated financial hardship (with supporting documents, if applicable) and a strong interest in studying at the University of Waikato.
- 2.4 Preference given to first-time applicants.
- 2.5 Performance during the interview.

### **4. Application and Selection Process**

- 4.1 Submit an Expression of Interest (Eol) explaining eligibility per criteria under 1 and 3 above.
- 4.2 Provide:
  - a) Academic performance proof (e.g., University “Academic Record”, NZRoA).
  - b) Two reference letters (one academic reference and one personal reference / testimonial from a community leader).
  - c) Documentation of financial hardship (if applicable).
- 4.3 Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by the WMA selection committee.
- 4.4 The WMA selection committee will recommend four candidates (preferably two male and two female, if available) to the WMA Executive Committee for approval.
- 4.5 The President of the WMA (or nominee) will endorse nominations and forward these to the University of Waikato Scholarship Committee.
- 4.5 The University of Waikato Scholarship Committee staff will check nominations, eligibility, and seek endorsement and approval from the Chair of the Scholarships Committee (or nominee).
- 4.6 Backup candidates (one male and one female) may be selected to replace original awardees if needed.
- 4.7 Four awards will be made annually. If not enough eligible candidates of one gender apply, WMA may allocate more awards to the other gender.

4.8 Successful candidates' names will be posted on the masjid noticeboard (Men's and Sisters' sections).

## **5. Award Value, Tenure, and Acceptance**

5.1 Each award is up to NZD \$7,500, applied directly to tuition fees.

5.2 If tuition fees are less than the award amount, student services fees will be paid, and any remaining funds forfeited.

5.3 The award is valid for one year and must be used within the year of tenure.

5.4 Recipients will be notified via MyWaikato portal and must accept by the specified date, or the offer will lapse.

5.5 By accepting, recipients agree to Abide by the Award conditions and the Scholarships Policy and to participate in promotional activities/events by the University or Waikato during the award tenure, if required.

## **6. Additional Conditions**

6.1 Recipients are responsible for verifying the impact of the Award on other financial assistance or tax obligations.

6.2 The Award is non-refundable to the student.

6.3 Withdrawal from any papers requires full repayment of the Award.

6.4. The University of Waikato Scholarships Committee may terminate the Award and recoup funds if the recipient:

- Withdraws from the University during the award tenure.
- Brings the University or WMA into disrepute.
- Fails to comply with Award regulations.

6.5 Recipients may appeal termination decisions by contacting [scholarships@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:scholarships@waikato.ac.nz) which will forward the appeal to the Scholarships Executive.

6.6 Recipients agree to abide by Award regulations and the Scholarships Policy.

6.7 These regulations may be revised, from time to time, as needed.