

FUND YOUR STUDIES



Our Incoming First-Year Scholarships recognise outstanding achievement, increase accessibility, and celebrate academic excellence and community involvement.

Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury offers a range of scholarships specifically for incoming first-year students to nurture personal growth and support future success. These scholarships celebrate and recognise academic and sporting excellence, leadership, cultural and community involvement, and overcoming of barriers and personal challenges.

Why apply for a scholarship?

Scholarships help ease the financial stresses of study, accommodation, and student life, enabling you to place more focus on your studies and access additional resources and opportunities. Recipients have found that the benefits of this are far-reaching and lifelong, including:

- Increased confidence and self-worth
- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Sense of belonging and recognition
- Social integrations and friendships
- Motivation and empowerment
- Mental wellbeing

What previous recipients had to say:

“Without the worry of tuition fees, I have had the ability to move out of home and experience life in more noteworthy ways. Gaining the scholarship gave me more faith and confidence within myself and my abilities. I have also had the chance to grow and learn as a person through the groups held within the scholarship.”

G Rainbow, Law

“The Te Kakau a Māui scholarship has benefitted me by allowing me to focus on my studies without the worry of tuition fees later on in my degree. It has provided priceless help and support during my transition into tertiary education and guided me on my path into my engineering degree. I have enjoyed meeting like-minded rangitahi as part of the scholarship, creating connections and friendships through workshops, and sharing ideas and stories together.”

K Jones, Mechatronics

HOW TO APPLY:

- 1 Research** – Browse all available scholarships to find out what's on offer.
- 2 Check if you qualify** – Read through the criteria to see if you are eligible.
- 3 Check application dates** – Scholarship applications open eight weeks before the closing date.
- 4 Prepare your information** – Think about what you want to include with your application and, if required, who you will use as your referee(s).
- 5 Complete your application** – Ensure you submit your information before the closing date.
- 6 Sit back and wait!** – The selection process typically takes 6–8 weeks but may take longer. Don't worry – we will notify you as soon as a decision has been made.



Incoming First-Year Scholarships available for 2026

Scholarship Name	Purpose	Value and Benefits	Who is Eligible
Outstanding Impact Scholarship	This prestigious scholarship nurtures high-achieving students via networking and development opportunities to progress their education in innovative areas and make connections to advance their careers.	\$7,500 plus the opportunity to participate in a UC-sponsored networking and development programme.	All prospective first-year undergraduate students who achieved Excellence at NCEA Level 2 or a corresponding level in an equivalent university entrance qualification.
Go Waitaha Canterbury	For students who have strong academic potential but are facing challenges in affording university accommodation costs.	\$15,000 towards accommodation costs at a hall of residence recognised by UC and priority consideration for a place in a hall, plus educational outdoor recreational field trips and a personal and professional development programme in the first year of study.	Year 13 or gap year students attending a school and/or living outside the Greater Christchurch area. Applicants must be eligible to receive StudyLink Student Allowance. Dependent on achievement of Merit or higher at NCEA Level 2, or an equivalent university entrance qualification.
UC Haupatu Sport Scholarship	This scholarship recognises the value of student athletes and sport in general to the wellbeing of UC's community and aims to support top-performing players while they are studying at the University.	\$7,500 towards tuition fees plus access to UC's Performance Academy.	Applicants must be age-group regional and/or national representatives in sporting codes.
Empowerment Through Adversity Scholarship	This scholarship recognises and supports students who have faced significant barriers or personal challenges to entering tertiary education.	Tuition fees for up to 135 points of enrolment per annum, plus \$5,000 per annum each year for up to three years, and an opportunity to participate in a bespoke mentoring and development programme and curated opportunities to contribute to UC's Wellbeing programme.	New incoming first-year undergraduate students who have achieved despite significant barriers or personal challenges. (This may include disabled people, or those with chronic health conditions, ongoing mental health challenges or neurodiversity, second chance learners and others who have shown resilience managing their personal circumstances.)
UC Kaitoko Māori Scholarship	This scholarship recognises leadership potential, high academic achievement, and involvement in community and cultural activities amongst ākonga students who have whakapapa Māori.	\$7,500 towards tuition fees in the first year that fees are payable, as well as an opportunity to participate in the UC Māori leadership programme, Paihere, and a UC-sponsored general leadership programme.	Prospective first-year Māori undergraduate students who achieved Merit at NCEA Level 2 or a corresponding level in an equivalent university entrance qualification.
UC Kaitoko Pacific Scholarship	This scholarship recognises high academic achievement, as well as leadership potential and involvement in Pacific community and/or Pacific cultural activities, amongst intending first-year Pacific students at UC.	\$7,500 towards tuition fees in the first year that fees are payable, as well as an opportunity to participate in a UC-sponsored leadership programme.	Prospective first-year Pacific undergraduate students who achieved Merit at NCEA Level 2 or a corresponding level in an equivalent university entrance qualification.
Te Kakau a Māui Scholarship	This scholarship recognises and supports undergraduate students who demonstrate alignment with UC's commitment to producing students who are engaged, empowered, and prepared to make a difference. The scholarship aims to recognise applicants with a demonstrated and significant commitment to creating positive change in the world.	Tuition fees for up to 135 points of enrolment per annum for the duration of a full-time undergraduate degree programme.	Prospective first-year undergraduate students intending to enrol full-time in a programme for a three-year or four-year undergraduate bachelor's degree. Applicants must be eligible to receive StudyLink Student Allowance and recipients must be in receipt of a Student Allowance.

Key dates for 2026 Incoming First-Year Scholarships:

Applications open: **12 June**

Applications close: **11:59pm (NZT) 7 August**

Helpful tip

You can be awarded multiple scholarships, so we recommend you apply for all that you are eligible for.

UC also offers subject-specific and accommodation scholarships, plus many other scholarships and grants available throughout your studies. Be sure to check through our entire scholarship database to see what else you may be eligible for.

Get started

Ready to apply?

Scan to visit our Incoming First-Year Scholarships page.

