



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education



**PACIFIC
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**
Scholarship

Pacific Education Foundation Scholarships

Application Guide and FAQs

This guidance will help you fill in the application form. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at TeachNZ.Admin@education.govt.nz or by calling 0800 165 225.

Pacific Education Foundation scholarships aim to encourage Pacific students into tertiary education. The scholarships can be used for any area of study at either graduate or postgraduate level.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for these scholarships you must:

- have enrolled or be planning to enrol full-time in a registered tertiary education organisation in New Zealand
- be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- be of indigenous Pacific cultural heritage (see below list of places)
- involved in your local community, and where possible, your Pacific community (see guidelines).

Indigenous Pacific cultural heritage

An eligible Pacific person must have indigenous Pacific cultural heritage from the following list of places:

- American Samoa
- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Hawai'i
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- Niue
- Papua New Guinea
- Pitcairn Island
- Rabi
- Rotuma
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Wallis and Futuna

How applications are assessed

When we receive applications, we will check them to ensure they meet all eligibility criteria. The selection panel will then assess your application on the following:

- Your ability to communicate effectively and your motivations to pursue tertiary education
- Your current qualifications
- Your need(s) (financial or otherwise)
- Your academic success and personal achievement

Note: academic success is not necessarily only getting high grades or completing your qualification, but may also include, for example, being first in family to attend a tertiary institution, receiving entrance into various courses or programmes, attending a tertiary institution away from home, and/or commitment to your Pacific culture(s) within the academic context. Please tell us your perspective on academic success.

- Your experiences leading and working with people, and where possible, our Pacific communities.

Note: we acknowledge that some applicants may not have opportunities to be involved in their respective Pacific community/communities. Please include all activities that you have been/are involved in in your community (Pacific and/or wider community).

For the 2026/27 round, the Pacific Education Foundation are supporting Pacific learners moving into future focussed fields, while still funding the breadth of study Pacific communities need.

25% of the scholarships awarded will be targeted to priority pathways of:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
- Health and allied health
- Digital, data and AI
- Engineering and skilled trades

- Training, research and education workforce
- Green, climate and sustainability fields

If your qualification is not aligned to these areas, there are still Pacific Education Foundation scholarships available. The remaining 75% of scholarships will continue to support the full breadth of study including social services, construction, Pacific languages, Pacific customs and culture.

Completing the application form

We encourage you to read through the form and application guide and see what information and attachments you need to provide before filling in the application.

Please note, the form should be completed all at once, as your progress may not be saved and you could lose what you have written. If you want to work on your answers over time, store them in a separate document and paste them into the form when you are ready to complete it.

Certified documents and who can certify them

Copies of any official documentation must be certified.

Certified documents are endorsed as true copies of an original. They are signed, stamped and dated by an authorised person. Only authorised people can certify your copies.

A family member or spouse cannot certify copies of your documents, even if they are authorised to do so for other people.

Any of the following people can certify copies:

- Justice of the Peace.
- Court registrar or deputy registrar.
- Lawyer or solicitor.
- Notary public
- Education provider (for certified academic transcripts or certificates only).

Your documents must have been certified within the past 12 months. Certified documents for your application

Certified documents for your application

You must upload the following certified documents as part of completing your application form.

If you are a New Zealand citizen, provide one of the following:

- ID page of your New Zealand passport
- New Zealand birth certificate

- A certificate of New Zealand citizenship

If you are a New Zealand permanent resident or resident visa holder, provide:

- your main passport page, and
- a passport page showing your New Zealand residency stamp/sticker or
- a certified copy of an e-visa.

Upload evidence of your academic achievements.

- Academic transcripts for any study you have undertaken.

Filling in the application form

Section One – Eligibility and consent

Please read the privacy statement, which outlines how we will use the information you provide in your application. You will be asked to accept this by ticking a confirmation box. If you do not accept, we will be unable to assess the application form, and you will not be able to submit an application.

We also outline the eligibility details in the form and ask that you confirm by ticking a confirmation box that you are eligible for the scholarship.

Section Two - Personal details

Provide your **full name**, **email address**, **phone number** so we can contact you. Don't use your school email if you are at school now, as it will not work when you leave school.

We also ask your **date of birth**, the **address** where you usually live and **gender**. These may be used for statistical purposes.

You will be asked to confirm your **ethnicity**. You can choose more than one. When confirming your **genealogical ties** to your indigenous Pacific cultural heritage, please tell us who in your family was born in the Pacific, and where they were born.

Supporting evidence: You also need to upload **proof of your identity** – this can be a certified copy of the photo page of: your passport, your NZ citizenship documentation, or birth certificate. If you are a permanent resident, you will also need a copy of the permanent residency visa page in your passport as well.

Section Three – Scholarship details and study plan

This section asks which scholarship you are applying for, and what and where you plan to study.

You may apply for either an **undergraduate** or a **postgraduate** scholarship. Postgraduate programmes are those at a higher level, rather than completing a second undergraduate degree. Your institution should be able to advise you on whether your course is an undergraduate or postgraduate programme.

We want to know how far along you are in your studies and when you expect to graduate with this qualification. Please let us know when you started studying the qualification (**expected start date**) you are seeking support for – this date may be in the past if you have already begun your

study for this qualification – and the approximate date you will likely complete this qualification (**expected end date**). We also want to know what **year of study** you are in and if you are **currently receiving or have previously received any other scholarship funding**. Priority may be given to applicants who are not being supported or have not received support via scholarships funding in the past.

Section Four – Qualifications and academic history

The selection panel would like to know about the qualifications you already hold because proof of your success in study is highly desirable.

- Include details of the highest qualifications you have achieved or partially completed, either academic or work-related. You may also detail any other degree certificates and awards you may have achieved.
- You may also include here any other comments about your academic performance, i.e. details of extenuating circumstances around specific grades.

Academic transcript:

Supporting evidence is required for academic history: your application must include a certified copy of **a full academic transcript or record of achievement**.

Ideally, we would like to see one to two years of results, and the transcript or record must include grades for individual papers/courses. The record can be for a qualification you are currently working towards but should include at least one year's worth of results.

If you would like to upload multiple documents, you will need to combine them into one file. Files for upload can be up to 16MB in size and can be PDF, Microsoft Word documents, or image files PNG, JPG, JPEG, or GIF.

Curriculum Vitae (CV):

To give the selection panel a greater understanding of your qualification and work history, please supply a brief CV (no more than two single-sided A4 pages).

The selection panel is looking for any qualifications you may have, your work history whether its employment or voluntary work, community involvement, and life experiences you bring with you to your studies.

Section Five – Why are you applying?

This section asks you to write about why the scholarship is important to you and your future plans. This part of the application is a chance for you to tell the Pacific Education Foundation Board about yourself and your goals and aspirations in your own words.

Questions (350-words per question)

- Tell us how your characteristics, experiences, and skills will add value to your studies. Think about future facing capabilities, such as digital literacy, data fluency, AI-adjacent skills, adaptability, cultural intelligence alongside traditional academic strengths and cultural knowledge.
- Describe how your study and future career goals connect to emerging Pacific workforce needs - including AI and digital, climate adaptation, health workforce, infrastructure and skilled trades, teaching and research capability, and the sustaining of Pacific languages and culture.

- Tell us about any future aspirations you may have.

For the above questions on characteristics, career goals and future aspirations, make sure to think about links between your motivation, experience and skills that will lead to your future tertiary success, and meeting of your goals and aspirations.

- Tell us how you will use this scholarship, and how it might lessen any hardship (financial or otherwise) you are currently experiencing. *The selection panel is interested in knowing how this scholarship will support your studies and meet the various costs that come from studying.*

This may include (but is not limited to), accommodation, childcare, travel costs, placement costs, and/or health and wellbeing costs. For any details(s) identified, please tell us how this explicitly relates to supporting you on your academic journey. This information may be used for reporting and statistical purposes.

- What is a change that you would like to see in your community? How will you support or contribute with the skills you have developed, or will develop, through your study?
- How are you involved in your Pacific community? *This statement must have a reference letter to support what you say. The selection panel may contact them.*

Reference letter - provide a reference letter to support your response to this question. This can be from a community leader, employer, church minister, tutor and so on. Please note this cannot be from a member of your family.

The selection panel may contact this person (referee). Please provide contact details for them in the form.

Section Six – Applicant declaration

Please read each of the declaration statements. You are be asked to confirm these statements are true by ticking a confirmation box.

We also ask where you heard about the scholarships so we can make sure our communications work as well as possible to support people to apply for the Pacific Education Foundation scholarships next year.

Completed Application

The application form must be fully completed online with all necessary documents attached. Incomplete or illegible applications will not be considered.

Just before you submit the application form you may request to receive a copy of your responses via email - a link to a copy of your responses can be sent by the application platform to the email address of your choosing.

Applications that are not supported by the correct documents will be considered incomplete and will not be assessed for a scholarship.



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