

University of Canterbury Incoming First-Year Scholarships - General Awards

Scholarship Name	Purpose	Value	Eligibility and Other Relevant Information	Closing Date
Outstanding Impact Scholarship	For students with strong academic abilities who are aiming for significant achievements in their chosen field of study or research. 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.	Financial assistance to the value of \$7,500 plus the opportunity to participate in a UC-sponsored networking and development programme throughout a recipient's degree.	Applicants must be incoming first-year undergraduate students who achieved Excellence at NCEA Level 2 or a corresponding level in an equivalent university entrance qualification. Applicants with NCEA Level 2 Merit or equivalent may be considered if they are regarded as excelling in a particular area of the selection criteria. Applicants must be Aotearoa New Zealand or Australian citizens of or holders of Aotearoa New Zealand residence class visas; or international students who are studying at secondary level in Aotearoa New Zealand at the time of application. Up to 70 scholarships available.	7-Aug
Go Waitaha Canterbury	For students with strong academic potential but facing challenges to affording university accommodation costs.	\$15,000 towards hall of residence accommodation fees 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.	Applicants must be current Year 13 students who attended a school and/or lived outside the Greater Christchurch area in the year of application (or in the case of a gap year, in the previous year); that achieved Merit or higher at NCEA Level 2, or an equivalent university entrance qualification. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are experiencing financial hardship, making it difficult to undertake tertiary study. Applicants must have completed the separate UC Application for Accommodation and NZ Common Confidential Reference Form online by the appropriate due dates. Up to 90 scholarships are available – with at least two scholarships reserved for each of the following: (a) students who whakapapa Māori; (b) Pacific students; (c) students who identify as Rainbow; (d) students who identify as disabled; and (e) students who will be registering with the University's Te Ratonga Whaikaha Student Accessibility Service.	7-Aug
UC Haupatu Sports Scholarship	This scholarship recognises the value of student athletes and sport in general to the well-being of the community of UC and aims to support top-performing players while they are studying at the University.	\$7,500 towards tuition fees in the first year that fees are payable; and access to UC's Performance Academy.	Applicants must be new incoming first-year undergraduate students who are playing at a high level in a sporting code. Where regional or national competitions are reasonably available for their code, applicants must be representatives at one or both levels. Applicants must be Aotearoa New Zealand or Australian citizens of or holders of Aotearoa New Zealand residence class visas; or international students who are studying at secondary level in Aotearoa New Zealand at the time of application. Up to 25 scholarships are available plus a possible two additional scholarships available for players of association football.	7-Aug
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 financial assistance to the value of \$5,000 per annum each year; for up to three years. Opportunity to participate in a bespoke mentoring and development programme and curated opportunities to contribute to UC's Wellbeing programme throughout a recipient's degree.	Applicants should be 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.) Applicants must have achieved at least 60 credits (including 10 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini credits and 10 Numeracy or Te Pāngarau credits) at NCEA level 2 or above or a corresponding level in an equivalent university entrance qualification. Applicants must be Aotearoa New Zealand citizens of or holders of Aotearoa New Zealand residence class visas. Up to 10 scholarships are available.	7-Aug

UC Māpura Bright Start Scholarship	This scholarship supports academically able students who are entering tertiary study for the first time and whose financial or personal circumstances might have prevented them from considering entry to tertiary education in the absence of the scholarship.	Tuition fees and all compulsory fees charged by the University (excluding fees associated with summer courses, field-trip fees, penalty fees, late fees, and other optional external charges) for one year.	Applicants should be new incoming first-year undergraduate students who studied at secondary level in the year of application (or in the previous year if they are on a gap year). Applicants must be Aotearoa New Zealand citizens or holders of Aotearoa New Zealand residence class visas (who have resided in NZ for at least the 12 months immediately preceding the closing date of applications); or holders of refugee status granted by Aotearoa New Zealand. Up to 15 scholarships are available with preference given to (a) applicants with whakapapa Māori; or (b) Pacific students; or (c) current or former holders of refugee status granted by Aotearoa New Zealand.	7-Aug
UC Kaitoko Māori Scholarship	This scholarship recognises leadership potential, involvement in community and cultural activities, and high academic achievement amongst intending first-year ākonga students who have whakapapa Māori at UC.	\$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.	Open to prospective first-year Māori undergraduate students who achieved Merit or above at NCEA Level 2 or a corresponding level in an equivalent university entrance qualification. Applicants must be Aotearoa New Zealand or Australian citizens of or holders of Aotearoa New Zealand residence class visas; or international students who are studying at secondary level in Aotearoa New Zealand at the time of application. Up to 40 scholarships are available of which 5 are reserved for ākonga students who have whakapapa Ngāi Tahu.	7-Aug
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.	Open to prospective first-year Pacific undergraduate students who achieved Merit or above at NCEA Level 2 or a corresponding level in an equivalent university entrance qualification. Applicants must be Aotearoa New Zealand or Australian citizens of or holders of Aotearoa New Zealand residence class visas; or international students who are studying at secondary level in Aotearoa New Zealand at the time of application. Up to 20 scholarships are available.	7-Aug
Te Kakau a Māui Scholarship	This scholarship recognises and supports undergraduate students who demonstrate alignment to UC's commitment to producing students who are engaged, empowered, and prepared to make a difference. The scholarship aims to broaden the pool of students who receive financial support from the University, by recognising 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; plus participation in the bespoke mentoring and development 'Te Kakau a Māui Programme'.	Applicants must be new incoming first-year undergraduate students who, in the year of application, attended a school in the Canterbury region. Applicants must be intending to enrol full-time in a programme for a three-year or four-year undergraduate bachelor's degree and must be Aotearoa New Zealand citizens or holders of Aotearoa New Zealand residence class visas. Applicants must be eligible to receive StudyLink Student Allowance and recipients must be in receipt of a Student Allowance. Up to 30 scholarships are available.	7-Aug
Dr John Innes Scholarship	This scholarship encourages and supports students from Te Kāreti Kōhine o Wairau Marlborough Girls' College and Te Kāreti Taitama o Wairau Marlborough Boys' College to study at UC.	Financial assistance to the value of \$5,000 per annum for 3 years. Recipients in a four-year undergraduate programme or intending to enrol in a post-graduate programme, may apply for a fourth year of tenure.	Applicants must be current pupils of either Te Kāreti Kōhine o Wairau Marlborough Girls' College or Te Kāreti Taitama o Wairau Marlborough Boys' College who plan to enrol full-time in any undergraduate degree programme in 2026. Up to 2 scholarships are available – one for a pupil of Te Kāreti Kōhine o Wairau Marlborough Girls' College and one for a pupil of Te Kāreti Taitama o Wairau Marlborough Boys' College.	7-Aug
Helen Macmillan Brown Bursary	This bursary is to support female students residing in a hall or village that the University of Canterbury recognises as being affiliated with the University.	Financial assistance at a value of \$2,500 for one year.	Applicants must identify as female; be intending on enrolling full-time in the first year of an undergraduate degree at the University; and be resident in one of UC's affiliated halls of residence in the year following application. Up to 10 bursaries are available.	7-Aug

Jim Wakefield Scholarship	This scholarship supports old boys of Timaru Boys' High School at UC.	Financial assistance to the value of \$5,000 per annum for up to 4 years (initially paid towards tuition fees).	Applicants must be current pupils (or past pupils on a gap year) of Timaru Boys' High School who intend to enrol full-time in any undergraduate degree programme in 2026. Recipients must have been enrolled at the school for at least three years.	7-Aug
Rotary Club of Belfast-Kaiapoi Disability Scholarship	This scholarship supports undergraduate students at UC who have a disability.	Financial assistance to the value of \$3,000 for one year.	Applicants must be prospective first-year undergraduate students who have a disability that would qualify them to be registered with the University's Te Ratonga Whaikaha Student Accessibility Service . Preference is given to applicants whose last year of secondary education was in North Canterbury. Applicants must be citizens of Aotearoa New Zealand.	7-Aug
Rotary Club of Christchurch Blackgrove Scholarship	This scholarship supports students intending to study at UC who face challenges that might otherwise prevent them from considering entry to tertiary education.	\$5,000 towards tuition fees in the first year that fees are payable.	Applicants must be prospective first-year full-time undergraduate students who have resided continuously in the Canterbury region for at least 12 months immediately preceding the closing date for applications (or preceding the start of a gap year). Applicants would be facing financial and/or personal challenges entering tertiary education. Preference is given to applicants who were educated within the Christchurch city area.	7-Aug
UC International First-Year Scholarship (NZ Incoming First-Year)	This scholarship recognises and supports top-achieving international students who have completed, or are currently completing, a university-entrance qualification at a New Zealand secondary school, and will be commencing an undergraduate degree programme at UC.	\$15,000 towards tuition fees	Applicants must have completed, or be completing, a University Entrance qualification (or equivalent), and have studied at secondary level in New Zealand in the year of application (or in the previous year if on a gap year). Applicants must be full fee-paying international students who have applied for admission to the university by 7 August. Applicants may not be a citizen of Aotearoa New Zealand or Australia, hold an Aotearoa New Zealand residence class visa, or be a Permanent Resident of Australia. Up to 10 scholarships are available. <i>NB: For students studying offshore or who are studying at UCIC, please apply under the October/Apr application round (see below).</i>	7-Aug
UC International First-Year Scholarship (Offshore and UCIC – International Application Round)	This scholarship recognises and supports top-achieving international students who have completed their university-entrance qualification overseas, or via UCIC and will be commencing an undergraduate degree programme at UC.	\$15,000 towards tuition fees	Applicants must be completing (or completed on or after 1 January of the year before application) through an overseas institution or at UC International College (UCIC), a university entrance-level qualification that permits entry into a UC undergraduate degree programme. Applicants must be full fee-paying international students who have applied for admission to the university by the closing date for the round in which they are applying. Applicants may not be a citizen of Aotearoa New Zealand or Australia, hold an Aotearoa New Zealand residence class visa, or be a Permanent Resident of Australia. Up to 7 scholarships are available. <i>NB: For students who studied at secondary level in Aotearoa New Zealand, please apply under the August round (see above).</i>	15-Apr or 31-Oct
Kuching Malaysian Alumni Scholarship	This scholarship recognises and supports top students from the Kuching Division, Sarawak, Malaysia who are studying in an undergraduate degree programme at UC.	Financial assistance to the value of \$10,000 for one year.	Applicants must have been born in the Kuching Division, Sarawak, Malaysia and/or have attended a primary or secondary school in the Kuching Division for at least five years. Applicants must be citizens of Malaysia. They cannot also be citizens of New Zealand or Australia, holders of New Zealand residence class visas, or Australian Permanent Residents.	31 October
UCSA Lloyd Lilley Scholarship	This scholarship supports students at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha University of Canterbury who studied at Southland Boys' High School or Southland Girls' High School.	Financial assistance to the value of \$1,200 for one year.	Applicants must be currently enrolled (or previously enrolled if on a gap year), at either Southland Boys' High School or Southland Girls' High School studying for a University Entrance qualification or equivalent and intending to enrol full-time in any undergraduate degree programme at UC for 2026.	7-Aug