

Special Aotea AUT Creative and Communication Studies Scholarship

Closing date: 31st March

PURPOSE

[Special Group](#) (Special) make the world's most creative and effective ideas to help brands prosper. Special's mission is to make a difference to brands, to businesses, to communities and to everyone that works at Special.

As a New Zealand owned and founded business, Special understands it is their responsibility to live up to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

It is why they created Special Aotea. Special Aotea is a culturally led creative, strategic and business rōpū within Special that is designed to authentically represent te ao Māori in our people, place, and the work they do for their clients, and the next generation – and believe that the next generation of rangatahi will make the greatest impact to our industry.

Special is delighted to invest in a scholarship package to support Māori students at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) on a pathway to a creative industry (advertising, design, creative).

AMOUNT AND TYPE OF AWARD

- One scholarship is available annually.
- Each scholarship covers tuition fees and compulsory student fees (domestic equivalent) for full-time study in Year 2 and Year 3 of a bachelor's degree programme at AUT focussed on design, advertising or marketing.
- In addition to the scholarship the successful scholar may be assigned a mentor from Special Group and be employed on a part-time basis with Special Group during semester breaks as mutually agreed under a separate employment contract.

TENURE

- Two years of full-time study in the second and third years of the approved bachelor's degree programme at AUT.
- The successful scholar must pass all papers in their first academic year of study and each subsequent academic year to retain the scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants for these scholarships must:

- Be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of Māori descent and declare this ethnicity and whakapapa when applying for admission to AUT.
- Be a full-time student at AUT enrolled by the closing date in the first year of a bachelor's degree programme focussed on a creative industry (advertising, design, creative).

- Demonstrate personal interest in the creative industry.
- Demonstrate all-round ability and leadership potential.
- Eligible students who can demonstrate financial or other barriers to study are encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications will open in February. Applicants must complete the application online through the AUT Scholarships Database and will be required to upload:

- A personal statement (maximum 1 page) outlining career aspirations, interest in the creative industry, why the applicant would benefit from the scholarship, barriers to study (if any) and connection to their Māori culture and whakapapa.
- A brief CV (no more than two pages)
- A current copy of their NCEA, CIE or IB record of achievement. IB students must obtain a predicted IB grade from their Principal or Principal's nominee.

REFERENCE: Applicants must nominate one character reference in support of their application. The application will send the nominated referee an email from the application portal. The referee may be from their secondary school, cultural group (e.g. a Kaumātua), religious group, sports club, workplace or a community organization.

CONDITIONS OF SELECTION

- Applicants will be shortlisted and interviewed by a scholarship selection panel comprising Special Group representatives and an AUT Head of School or designates.
- The decision of the scholarship selection panel is final.
- If the panel is of the opinion that there is no applicant of sufficient merit, the scholarship will not be awarded.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

- The award of this scholarship is conditional on the recipient gaining entry to and enrolling full-time in the approved bachelor's degree programme at AUT.
- The recipient must enrol full-time in no less than 120pts during each year of tenure of the scholarship.
- The award will be paid as tuition fees and compulsory student fees to the recipient's AUT fees account.
- The recipient may hold other non-tuition fee scholarships with the approval of the University Scholarships Office.
- Except in cases where there are compelling medical reasons or adverse personal circumstances beyond a student's control, the uptake of scholarships cannot be deferred.
- Recipients must be enrolled continuously in their programme of study during the year of award. Suspension requests must be made in writing to the University Scholarships Office and will be approved only for compelling medical or personal circumstances.
- If the recipient fails to make satisfactory progress in their studies or fails to meet the conditions of the scholarship, AUT Foundation and Special Group following joint consultation may terminate the scholarship.