



Student Guidelines - Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT Scholarship

Closing date 30 June (for first-year study commenced Semester 1 in year of application)

Purpose

The *Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT Scholarship* was established in 2014 by the Woolf Fisher Trust to 'break the cycle' and encourage students from families with no history of degree level study and for whom university study is a challenge for family for financial and/or cultural reasons to enable them to participate in university education.

Value and Tenure

- Up to thirteen scholarships will be awarded annually.
- Woolf Fisher First in Family scholars in their first year of study, who do not qualify for the Government's fees free policy, will be provided with the full amount of the tuition fee and the compulsory student services fee for full-time study for each year of enrolment.
- Woolf Fisher First in Family scholars in their first year of study who qualify for the Government's fees free policy for tertiary education will be provided with a Woolf Fisher First in Family scholarship of \$2,500 awarded on successful completion of semester 1 papers.
- In the second and third year of study, the Woolf Fisher First in Family scholars will receive the full amount of the tuition fee and the compulsory student services fee for full-time study for each year of enrolment.
- Woolf Fisher First in Family scholars who are currently enrolled in the second or third year of their degree will each receive an additional Woolf Fisher First in Family Scholarship of \$2,500 awarded on successful completion of semester 1 papers.
- The tenure of the scholarship is for three years of full-time study. Consideration will be given for a fourth year for applicants enrolling in a four year degree programme.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Applicants for a *Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT Scholarship* must be the first-in-family to seek to complete a degree. First-in-family normally means that neither of the applicant's birth parents has successfully completed a degree level qualification.
2. An applicant with brothers or sisters enrolled in, or with a degree, will be eligible to apply for a *Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT Scholarship*, however, priority may be given to an applicant who is the first child in the family to enrol in a degree.
3. Applicants must be able to demonstrate financial hardship.
4. Applicants must have university entrance or equivalent and meet the AUT programme entry requirements.
5. An applicant must be a New Zealand citizen and have attended a secondary school in New Zealand for at least two years.
6. Preference will be given to applicants from South Auckland who can demonstrate a commitment to bringing about change in their community

Application requirements

Applicants will apply through the AUT Scholarships on-line portal and must apply for admission prior to applying for this scholarship. The following documentation will need to be uploaded in the portal:

- Certified copies of academic records to date.
- A list of academic achievements, leadership positions, sporting and cultural involvement and community involvements;
- A statement of their determination to succeed in their chosen course of study and to contribute to their community.

Applicants will be asked to declare in their application:

- Neither of the applicant's birth parents has successfully completed a degree level qualification.
- Any current or past degree programme enrolments of their brothers and sisters.
- Their willingness to act as a mentor to future first year Woolf Fisher First in Family AUT Scholars.

Selection

- Applications will be considered by a selection panel from the AUT Foundation after Semester 1 academic results are released.
- Applicants will be shortlisted by the AUT Foundation and those shortlisted will normally be required to attend an interview.
- Shortlisted applicants will be required to bring to the interview, the following:
 - Information regarding financial hardship.
 - Written recommendation from a school principal or church leader or community leader:
 - Confirming that the applicant's access to university is significantly affected by financial barriers;
 - Describing the applicant's personal attributes;
 - Comment on the applicant's role model material.
 - Comment whether the applicant has the determination and ability to succeed in their chosen area of study;
 - Any other relevant information.
- The *Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT Scholarship* will be awarded by the AUT Foundation.
- The decision of the AUT Foundation is final. If, in the opinion of the AUT Foundation, no applicant of sufficient merit has applied for the *Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT Scholarship* in a given year, no scholarship shall be offered that year.

Conditions of award

- The scholarship is for full-time study only, such that the recipient may complete their degree in the minimum time stipulated for that degree (normally three years, and on occasion four years).
- A *Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT Scholarship* may not be held in conjunction with any other fees scholarship. The recipient may hold additional non-tuition fee-based scholarships with the approval of the AUT Foundation.

- Annual renewal of the *Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT Scholarship* is conditional upon the student passing *all* papers during the tenure of the scholarship, thereby completing the degree in the minimum time. In exceptional circumstances this condition may be waived
- Students will be required to have regular contact and meetings with their designated AUT Student Services support centre staff member (Student Advisor).
- The AUT Foundation may at any time suspend or terminate the *Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT Scholarship*, or require the forfeiture of such proportion of the scholarship as the AUT Foundation may determine, if it is not satisfied that the recipient is diligently pursuing the approved program or if the recipient has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded.
- The *Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT Scholarship* must be taken up for the year for which it was offered and may not be deferred to a later year.
- The *Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT Scholarship* may not be deferred nor suspended during the tenure, except under special circumstances.