



## Sponsorships that grow Pacific staff capability in tertiary education

### Criteria

- Each scholarship will be awarded for professional development activities chosen by the nominee that align with their current role, while helping to develop their leadership skills and career advancement, e.g.:
  - Leadership courses
  - Support in gaining an advanced qualification relating to their work
  - Presenting at conferences.
- The scholarship must align to professional development that supports an individual's long-term career progression – i.e. not to support them to do their existing job better (this is the responsibility of the employer). “Business as usual” activities will not be considered appropriate for funding under this initiative.
- Preference will be given to nominees who can demonstrate that successful completion of their proposed professional development will provide them with opportunities for enhanced external recognition within New Zealand (e.g. gain credit towards a higher level qualification that enhances their eligibility for the MPP Pasifika on Boards programme).
- The funding must be used within the year following receipt of the award. (For example, successful applicants in the 2020 round will need to complete their professional development by the end of 2021).
- A nominee awarded a scholarship in any year can be nominated for a further scholarship three years after receiving their first award.
- Unsuccessful nominees in any round can be re-nominated in the next round.

### The nomination process

- Ako Aotearoa will open a call for nominations at least once during a calendar year. This will be done through its e-newsletter, social media and other communication channels as appropriate.
- Nominations are to be made on the nomination form available from the Ako Aotearoa website at: [www.ako.ac.nz/pacific-fund](http://www.ako.ac.nz/pacific-fund).

### Selection process

- The Ako Aotearoa Pacific Peoples' Caucus will establish a selection panel of Pacific people involved in education.
- The panel will identify and manage any conflicts of interest as per accepted government practice.
- The panel reserves the right to interview short-listed nominees prior to making final decisions.
- In making the awards in any year consideration will be given to maintaining an appropriate balance in terms of gender and Pacific ethnicities.
- The panel's decisions are final.

### Expectations of successful awardees

1. Successful scholarship awardees will prepare a summary report on the outcomes of their professional development once completed to the Ako Aotearoa Pacific Peoples' Caucus.
2. Successful awardees will be expected to contribute to a continuing network of scholarship holders with a view to supporting other Pacific staff to develop their careers in tertiary education.
3. Awardees who do not complete the planned professional development will be required to repay their scholarship funding.

Please visit [www.ako.ac.nz/pacific-fund](http://www.ako.ac.nz/pacific-fund) to download a nomination form.

For more information, contact Ako Aotearoa National Office at:

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