

Ako Aotearoa Pacific Professional Development Scholarship Fund 2024

Tālofa lava, malo e lelei, kia orana, fakaalofa lahi atu, ni sa bula vinaka, kia ora, tālofa, fakafeiloaki, halo olaketa, mauri, fakatalofa atu, taloha ni!



The awardees of the 2023 Pacific Professional Development Scholarship Fund (left to right): Emma Packham (University of Waikato), Sashi Jeffries (Real World Education), Angeline Taulia Malae (University of Canterbury), Joel Ali (Careerforce), Anne Hukiavave (Solomon Group/New Zealand Weld and Trade Services), and Rosemary Anderson (NorthTec).

Supporting the development of Pacific tertiary leaders in Aotearoa New Zealand

Ako Aotearoa is committed to supporting Pacific staff and emerging Pacific leaders in tertiary education. Our purpose is two-fold and aims to address the following priorities:

- Supporting Pacific tertiary staff on their pathways to leadership positions through career development
- Building Pacific leadership capability, along with capacity, that becomes a stronger platform of support to grow greater Pacific learners' success.

The scholarships are each worth between \$2,000 and \$5,000, and awarded on the basis that this sum is equally matched in dollars or in-kind contribution from the nominee's organisation.*

Eligibility

The fund is open to all Pacific staff working in tertiary education in New Zealand (academic and general/professional) who are:

- of Pacific descent
- working to support learners in tertiary education

*In-kind contributions could include, for example, travel costs, accommodation, resources, and/or staffing backfill. Internal item costs should be provided.

- can demonstrate how the professional development aligns with their existing role and contributes to their career development.

Staff must be nominated by their employers.

How to apply

Download the nomination form from the Ako Aotearoa website at: ako.ac.nz/pacific-fund.

Complete the form, with sign off from the CEO/Tumuaki/Organisation leader.

Email to Ako Aotearoa at info@ako.ac.nz by 5pm, Friday 20 September 2024. Put "Pacific Scholarship" in the subject line.

Key dates for 2024

- Friday 19 July – round opens
- Friday 20 September – round closes
- Friday 29 November – awardees announced

Download a nomination form at www.ako.ac.nz/pacific-fund



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).
- 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 2024 round will need to complete their professional development by the end of 2025).
 - 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 role of the nominating organisation

Our scholarships aim to support Pacific tertiary staff with targeted Professional Development activities not considered “business as usual” for the nominees or their managers.

This scholarship opportunity should be considered part of the employer's sustained investment in the professional development of that staff member.

Selection process

- 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.
- 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 report back to the Ako Aotearoa on the outcomes of their professional development once completed.
2. 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. Successful scholarship awardees and their nominators are expected to complete a follow-up survey within one year of receiving the scholarship and participate in a focus group discussion to evaluate the scholarship's impact on their career advancements and achievement.
4. Awardees who do not complete the planned professional development will be required to repay their scholarship funding.

