

Ako Aotearoa Pacific Professional Development Scholarship Fund

Building capability and developing future Pacific educational 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 leadership capability, along with capacity, that becomes a stronger platform of support to grow greater Pacific learners' success.

Background to the fund

Established in 2016 and led by Ako Aotearoa's Pacific Peoples' Caucus, the fund has awarded 11 scholarships to Pacific tertiary staff so far. The scholarships are each worth **between** \$2,000 and \$5,000, and awarded on the basis that this sum is equally matched in dollars by the employing organisation.

Eligibility

The fund is open to all Pacific staff working in tertiary education in New Zealand. The Fund is designed to support the career development of Pacific staff who have demonstrated the potential to progress to middle and senior management positions within New Zealand's tertiary sector.

The scholarships are open to all staff (both academic and general/professional) who are:

- of Pacific descent
- working to support learners in tertiary education
- can demonstrate how the professional development aligns with their existing role and contributes to their career development.



Staff must be nominated by their employers, who are expected to match the amount of funding provided by Ako Aotearoa. Nominees may work in any part of the tertiary education sector.

The role of the organisation

The fund aims to build the capability of Pacific teachers, learners and support staff by funding appropriate, targeted Professional Development activities not considered "business as usual" for the applicants or their organisations. Ako Aotearoa is looking to award scholarships to individuals where their employing TEO can demonstrate its commitment to the advancement and capability of its Pacific staff, preferably organisation-wide and at a strategic level.

Key dates for 2019

- 30 April – round opens
- 30 August – round closes
- 25 September – awardees announced

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 2018 round will need to complete their professional development by the end of 2019).
- A nominee awarded a scholarship in any year cannot be nominated for a further scholarship until three years after the 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.

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 to download a nomination form.

For more information, contact Ako Aotearoa National Office at:

E: info@ako.ac.nz | P: 0800 MYAKONZ