APRIL 2024-MARCH 2025
Donor Impact Report

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

TE HERENGA WAKA—VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

ALUMNI APPEAL SCHOLARSHIPS



CAPITAL THINKING.
GLOBALLY MINDED.
MAI I TE IHO KI TE PAE

THE STORY OF YOUR IMPACT BEGINS HERE

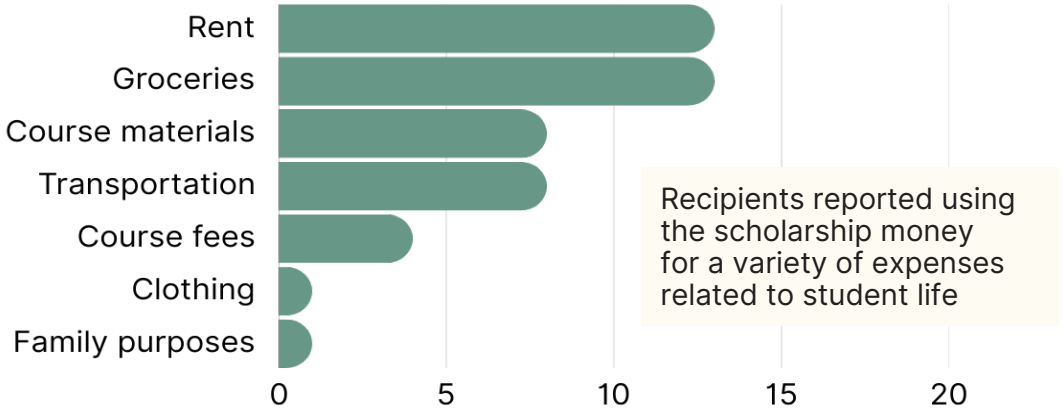
$95,771
RAISED FOR THE 2025 ALUMNI APPEAL RECIPIENTS

349
GENEROUS DONORS

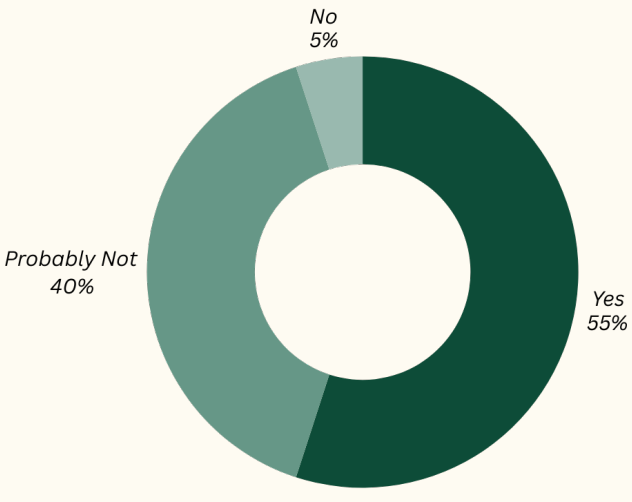
20
ALUMNI APPEAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN 2025

Thanks to the incredible generosity of alumni like you, the Alumni Appeal programme was able to increase the number of scholarships awarded from 17 in 2024 to 20 in 2025.

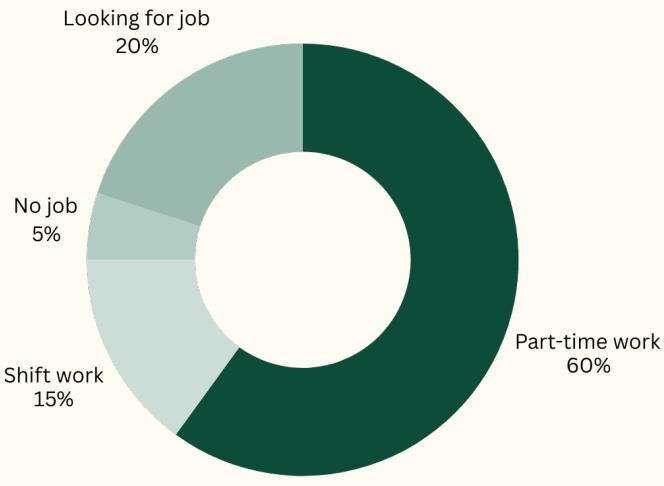
Paying for the second year of university can be challenging for students with limited incomes and a full courseload, which means your support ensured more hardworking students than ever before have the chance to pursue their academic dreams. Thank you!



Recipients were asked whether they would be able to continue university without the scholarship. Nearly half said it was unlikely.



Even with the scholarship, 3/4 of the recipients reported engaging in part-time work to help fund their studies.



A WORD FROM SOME OF THE STUDENTS YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS



"The Alumni Appeal Scholarship has allowed me valuable time to dedicate to my passions and studies, so that my degree becomes my job. I have had much more flexibility when joining new clubs, less stress when it comes to paying rent, and more time to work on my projects without the looming pressure of finances. This year so far, I have enjoyed volunteering for the Cancer Society, Kai Cycle, and attending seminars for the Wellington International Leadership Program. It is such an incredible opportunity to be granted more time to do the things I love, so I am eternally grateful for your support."

Lara Teodorescu
Bachelor of Architectural Studies



"This scholarship has enabled me to be able to go back to playing competitive football since I have more free time. My mental health has also improved since I'm back to playing sports instead of worrying about making money. This scholarship has enabled me to hopefully make it through my second year without any student loans."

Thomas Geesink
Bachelor of Architectural Studies



"Receiving the scholarship means I don't need to add to my student loan and borrow money to pay for my living costs. It primarily pays for my rent while my job pays for groceries and other expenses. Because of the scholarship, I can afford to take time off work to participate in extracurriculars, including spending four days in Auckland contributing to a Youth in Politics event and to increase my study load since I'm not as worried about making money."

Connor Signal
Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Global Studies



"Due to my course load and the lack of current job opportunities in Wellington, this scholarship was vital in allowing me to fully immerse myself in my studies and take on opportunities that not only enhanced my learning but also supported my mental health. My chronic health conditions (lupus and anxiety) have also stayed under control since I'm feeling less stress because of the support of the scholarship."

Daisy Cooper
Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Global Studies

Sights set on Harvard

For many students, their years at university are a time to explore new interests, try out different majors, and slowly figure out their passions through trial and error. That isn't the case for Alumni Appeal Scholarship recipient Lauren Burnet.

Since she was young, Lauren knew she wanted to be lawyer—and more specifically, to attend Harvard Law School in the United States. She dreams of working as a legal consultant for the Human Rights Council at the United Nations and to be based amidst the exciting metropolitan atmosphere of New York City. Despite the Trump administration's recent move to ban foreign students at Ivy League universities, Lauren is as determined as ever to attend.

"America has always fascinated me as a place," says Lauren. "I think part of that's probably because of the movies I grew up with, but I'm also the kind of person who is really drawn to complicated people and places. I view America as a really complicated place that has immense potential for hope and change. I think it would be fascinating to work in that kind of environment."

Lauren is currently studying for a Bachelor of Global Studies with dual minors in Human Rights, Justice & Peace and Globalisation, Movement, & Change. She was fully prepared to transition straight to law school after graduating, but Harvard only recognizes four-year bachelor's degrees. To meet the entry requirements, Lauren plans to pursue a Master's in Development Studies to bolster her three-year degree.

"Part of that Master's programme is going overseas to a developing country for six months to do practical research," Lauren says. "It could be about human rights or poverty, and those are both things I'm passionate about. I knew that before I studied law I wanted to go into disadvantaged communities and spend time just learning. I don't want to be someone who goes into my career thinking I know everything just because I understand the theory. I want to have practical knowledge of what it's like in real life."

While Lauren's next few years might seem set in stone, it wasn't always a sure path forward. Money was tight growing up in a



single parent household and her mom made lots of sacrifices to support her education. In addition to financial hardship, Lauren's first year of university was marked by severe health setbacks.

"I had been suffering from an eating disorder for a number of years, and in my last year of high school my doctor told me I needed to recover otherwise I wouldn't be able to go to university," says Lauren. "I did get better, but then I had a relapse when I first got to uni and ended up in a recovery facility for about two and a half months. I'm actually so grateful for the experience because it taught me a lot about how to be kind to myself, I made really good friends, and it gave me so much more confidence in overcoming obstacles I would face while getting my degree. I'm so much better now."

Despite her health challenges, Lauren consistently received A's in all her courses and made the Dean's List during her first year. She says that receiving an Alumni Appeal Scholarship felt like an incredible relief after such a challenging entry into academia.

"Using the $5,000 scholarship means that I essentially have $5,000 of my own money that I can save for my education later down the road," says Lauren. "Whether it's for my Master's or whether it goes into a fund for Harvard tuition, it's helping me achieve my future dreams by supporting me right now."



THANK YOU

Your gift changes lives

Te Kura Tangata—Development and Alumni Relations Office

