



NGĀ HOE A KUPE PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP



UPDATE FROM OUR STEERING GROUP CHAIR

In 2023 we welcomed our third cohort of Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship recipients to Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. We now have three cohorts of recipients (representing all the intakes of our pilot phase), with many in our first cohort on track to graduate in May and December 2024.

Our focus continues to be on understanding how we shape the most effective scholarship programme to support underserved rangatahi in our region to enter and thrive at university. We are seeing very promising increases in retention and completion rates for Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship recipients compared to other equity groups in our student community. This evaluation will continue as our pilot cohorts progress through their degrees.

This coming summer, many of our first cohort have secured work placements and internships through TupuToa. Supporting recipients to access employment opportunities represents the final phase of the scholarship. It's wonderful to see our ambitious and capable scholarship recipients begin to confidently take their first steps into their different career paths.

Since the programmes launched in 2021, the generosity and investment of our project supporters has meant more students have been able to participate, we were able to grow the number of partnering schools and can now continue beyond our pilot phase.

In particular, I would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the Hoku Foundation and the alumni community of Saint Bernard's College. Your support has made a significant difference to our journey so far and to the lives of deserving recipients.

Ngā mihi nui.

11
generous
supporters

10
scholarship
recipients

8
participating
schools

Margaret Hyland

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
Steering Group Chair for Ngā Hoe a Kupe
Pathfinder Scholarship programme



A WORD FROM OUR PROGRAMME MANAGER

It was an awesome year for our Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship programme in 2023. With the restrictions and disruptions of 2022 behind us, we were able to return all parts of our programme to Kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face).

We were able to deliver our prep programme fully in person, get together more regularly across the different cohorts, and spend more time in our partnering schools.

Reflecting on 2023, there were some definite highlights. During each application workshop or presentation about the scholarship, I was almost always accompanied by a current scholarship recipient (or four!).

Our Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship recipients spoke so truthfully and authentically about their experience at university to students in our partnering high schools.

Having this peer-to-peer connection is giving others the confidence to apply. Instilling a sense of confidence is something I think we see throughout the scholarship.

Recently two recipients in their final year applied for an NGO opportunity in Thailand. Both reflected on when they were applying for a Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship they thought “oh I won’t get it, they won’t pick me”, and what a sense of confidence being awarded a Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship gave them. When they were applying for the NGO opportunity, they said their attitude was “take every opportunity, I have the confidence to put myself forward now”.

I’m excited that our Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship programme will be continuing beyond our pilot phase. This will mean we can deepen our relationships with our partnering schools, invest in our prep programme, and continue to learn from the lived experiences of our incredible rangatahi.

Thank you again to everyone who supports our Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship Programme.

Gail Ah-Hi

Poutaki Karahipi Taurite
Equity Scholarships Programme Manager



OUR YEAR 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



2023 PREP PROGRAMME



Incoming Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship recipients participated in our four-day Prep Programme in February 2023. The Prep Programme is an opportunity for students and their whānau to get to know the University and the different resources available to them.

Thank you to the Winton and Margaret Bear Charitable Trust for supporting our 2023 Prep Programme.



A WORD FROM THE STUDENTS YOU HAVE HELPED

Our 2023 Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship recipients share what a difference your gift is making to them.



“This scholarship has allowed me to be the first in my family to attend university and to live independently for the first time in my life. This scholarship will cover three years of study tuition fees; once I graduate I will be debt free and I won’t have the stress and worry of having to pay off student loans. Thank you for your generosity. I truly hope that you will continue to support these scholarships so that others will have the same opportunities.”

Fatima Alsaeed

Bachelor of Health in Health Promotion



“The Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship represents a bridge that connects different cultures. I believe that education is the key to unlocking one’s potential and bringing about positive change in the world. Hailing from Somalia, I cannot begin to express how grateful I am for the chance to pursue my dreams of higher education. I want to express my deepest gratitude for your generosity and belief in my potential.”

Abdirizak Mohamed

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science



“Receiving this scholarship was something that I needed to be stress-free going into university and has meant I no longer need to work two jobs. This scholarship has been a massive help in furthering my education and studying subjects I am interested in. I am very grateful to be a recipient of this scholarship, and I hope to see it continue because it is the biggest helping hand.”

Maia-Jet Ikin

Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Te Reo Māori



"I am so thankful for your faith in me and your contribution towards my education. Your kindness has allowed me a laptop, books, stationery, and to live in the halls. For me, three meals a day in the halls is a luxury and it's the little things like this that allow me to thrive and enjoy university. This scholarship has benefitted me in many areas of my life and my personal wellbeing, I am beyond grateful."

Emilee Tuifao

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Education



"Your support has lifted a great weight off my family and my shoulders. Without this scholarship, my future would look entirely different. I never thought I could go to university and manage the mass expenses and debt that come with higher education; your generosity is the reason I am at university today. Thank you for your generosity, I'm forever grateful and appreciative."

Nia Road

Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Psychology



"I would like to say how infinitely grateful I am to have received this scholarship as it has allowed me to pursue my dreams. Had I not received this scholarship, I may not have been able to attend university due to financial barriers. This scholarship has made that doubt disappear. I would like to emphasise how grateful I feel every day to have received this scholarship. It is truly a life-changing experience!"

Killarney Howsan

Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Psychology



"I would like to thank every person who has supported this scholarship. This scholarship has allowed me to be the first in my family to attend university. Because of you, I am able to pursue higher education, and have the opportunity to stay in the halls of residence. For 17 years I have lived in a busy and crowded household having to share a room with siblings, so having my own room is a huge benefit for me. Thank you."

Sapphire Ruwhiu

Bachelor of Arts in Te Reo Māori and Māori Studies



"This generous scholarship will have a profound impact on my education and future endeavours. With this financial support, I will be able to pursue my dreams and aspirations with greater confidence and focus. It will alleviate the financial burden and allow me to fully immerse myself in my studies. I am truly grateful for your belief in my potential and for investing in my future. Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Xavier-Aj Asiata

Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Criminology



"I would like this chance to express my gratitude for being a recipient of the Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinders Scholarship. This scholarship is truly a blessing for my family and me, giving me the opportunity to come to Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington and stay close by at Weir House. I can't give thanks enough for this opportunity and I look forward to the memories and life skills I am going to learn along the way."

George Dalton

Bachelor of Arts in Pacific Studies and Education



"Receiving this scholarship has filled me with immense gratitude and appreciation. It serves as a testament to your belief in my potential and the importance of education. I am now able to purchase necessary textbooks, access additional learning resources, and explore opportunities that will further enrich my education. Thank you again for your generosity that is having a profound impact on my life."

Mannfred Sofara

Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing, Bachelor of Arts in Pacific Studies and Samoan Studies

A young man with dark, curly hair and a warm smile is wearing a black hoodie. He is sitting in front of a light-colored wall with large, dark letters that are out of focus. The letters visible include 'SA BULA V' on the top line and 'SE ILIE' on the line below. The man's hands are clasped in front of him on a wooden surface.

THANK YOU

Please continue to make a difference.

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