



## **New Law Student Scholarship 2026**

### **CRITERIA AND HOW TO APPLY**

#### **Summary**

This is a scholarship intended to support a woman to attend law school in Auckland, for whom this would otherwise be a financial challenge. Through the award of this scholarship, AWLA hopes to contribute to the future diversity of the legal profession.

The scholarship will be awarded to a promising new law student, who will receive mentoring and support from the AWLA community, and an award of \$20,000, spread over four years.

Continued eligibility for the scholarship is predicated on the recipient continuing to achieve academically in their pursuit of a law degree, and on other factors in AWLA's discretion.

We hope that the recipients of this scholarship will in turn become members of the AWLA community, who will support AWLA in maintaining its ability to offer this scholarship, and support other recipients who come after them.

#### **Details**

- Purpose: To support women applying to study law at the University of Auckland or the Auckland University of Technology who have proven academic potential, and whose financial circumstances are significantly constrained or for whom there are other special circumstances.
- Who can apply? To be eligible, applicants must:
  - be a woman (AWLA considers that 'woman' is an inclusive term, meaning anyone who identifies as a woman)
  - enrolling full-time in the first year of a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or a conjoint degree with an LLB at the University of Auckland or the Auckland University of Technology;
  - have performed at a high academic standard at school, with a minimum endorsement of Merit in the National Certificate in Educational Achievement (NCEA) Level 2 or 3 and/or the NZ Scholarships assessments, or equivalent;
  - have demonstrated financial need or other special circumstances showing that the scholarship is an important factor in enabling them to attend university; and

- live in the Auckland region (as covered by Auckland Council).
- For applicants in their final year of school, offers of a scholarship will be conditional upon the recipient gaining a minimum Merit endorsement on their NCEA Level 3 certificate, or equivalent.
- Value: \$20,000 – paid directly to the recipient in annual \$5,000 instalments as at 28 February (or once the recipient has confirmed their ongoing eligibility, whichever is later) each year that the recipient remains eligible.

We also intend to provide support and mentoring to the recipient, both to help the recipient navigate university life and excel at their studies, but also to assist them starting their career in the law (if that's what they choose to do with their law degree).

- Continued eligibility: Payment of each instalment is conditional on the recipient passing all of their papers in each preceding year, and on their continued enrolment in an undergraduate law programme at the University of Auckland or Auckland University of Technology. AWLA may choose to compassionately make an exception to this requirement if only one paper is not passed, but this will be at AWLA's discretion. AWLA encourages the recipient to remain in contact with AWLA throughout each year of their study, so AWLA can supply any support it can that will assist in ensuring the recipient passes their papers and remains eligible for the scholarship. Once eligibility for the scholarship lapses it cannot be regained (as in, if the recipient loses eligibility in their second year, no further scholarship payments will be made).
- Decision Makers: The scholarship will be awarded by a Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will consist of at least three members of the AWLA Committee, including at least one of the President or Vice President of AWLA. The Selection Committee's decision will be in its complete discretion, and will be final. There will be no obligation on the Selection Committee to give any reasons for its decision.
- Selection Criteria: The Selection Committee will take into consideration proven academic potential, financial hardship and/or other special circumstances, the contribution the recipient will make to underrepresented communities in the law, and the applicant's current and future contribution to the New Zealand community (including the legal community). AWLA is under no obligation to award the scholarship in the event the Selection Committee does not (in the Selection Committee's opinion) find a suitable applicant.
- Timeframes: Opening date: 1 November 2025. Closing date: 10 January 2026.
- Suspension or Termination:
  - AWLA may at any time before payment suspend or terminate the payment of the scholarship if it determines (in its sole discretion) that the recipient is not diligently pursuing a programme of research or study in an

undergraduate law programme at the University of Auckland or Auckland University of Technology, is no longer an appropriate recipient of the scholarship, or the recipient has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the Scholarship was awarded.

- If any recipient declines the scholarship, or does not take it up, the Selection Committee reserves the right to offer the scholarship to another applicant.
- How to apply: Send application to [scholarships@awla.nz](mailto:scholarships@awla.nz).
- Application requirements:
  - A submission (in whatever form the applicant chooses, eg in writing, or a video) providing the following:
    - an introduction to who you are (including your relationship to your community, and any family, leadership, caring, paid work, volunteering roles you have, etc);
    - an explanation of why you want to study law;
    - an explanation of why you need the scholarship and how it would affect your life and plans; and
    - any background to explain why you think you would be a good recipient, and how you align with AWLA values.
  - A statement explaining your financial position, and why you need the scholarship to be able to attend university. This should include (as a minimum):
    - whether or not you have been granted eligibility for a student allowance from Studylink (including an explanation of why not, if not or if you have not applied)
    - details of any other scholarships you have applied for, including what the outcome of those applications is at the time you submit your application (and we may ask you to provide updates on this following your application)
    - any other sources of financial support you will have while studying (for example, family, community, church or other grants).
  - A full NCEA School Results Summary or equivalent.
  - The name and contact details of a referee we can contact to discuss your suitability for this scholarship (for example, a teacher, employer, or community leader).

- Completed contact details/privacy provisions.
- An acknowledgement that you have read and understood the 'obligations on scholarship recipients' below, and that you agree to abide by this if you are awarded this scholarship.

### **Obligations on scholarship recipients**

AWLA is an organisation that exists to support women in the law in Auckland, and to advocate for women and children as the law affects them. The AWLA community is a strong and supportive one, where women in the law uplift and empower other women, and celebrate the success of women in the law.

Our expectation is that any scholarship recipient will identify with and support these values, and will make efforts to be an active participant in the AWLA community.

As part of that, scholarship recipients will be asked to help mentor and assist scholarship winners who come after them. Our hope is that through our scholarship winners we will be able to create a supportive group of women at university, who can help guide other new law students (who may be very unfamiliar with the university environment, and not know many other people there) into and through their degrees.

The scholarship recipient agrees to provide an annual written report to the AWLA Committee. This written report will detail their progress towards their proposed course of future study and future occupation and an explanation of how the Scholarship has assisted them during that year.

At times, we will also ask to you to participate in AWLA events, particularly those fundraising for the AWLA scholarship fund. We hope that you will be willing to help ensure that we can raise sufficient funds to be able to support more winners like you!

As well as providing AWLA with an update on your grades for the preceding year, and confirmation of your continued enrolment in an undergraduate law programme at the University of Auckland or Auckland University of Technology at the beginning of each year, you are also required to promptly tell us if your financial circumstances markedly change (including details of any other scholarships you have been awarded).