

New Zealand Refugee Health Scholarship Regulations

1. Purpose

The New Zealand Refugee Health Scholarship Programme was developed in 2025 by the National Leadership and Coordination Service (NLCS), a joint function established through a partnership between the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) | Immigration New Zealand, the Ministry of Health, and the Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora). The scholarship is available to both undergraduate and postgraduate applicants and the first year of the award will be for study commencing first semester or first trimester of 2026.

The purpose of the scholarship is to create more equitable access to health-related education and training for former refugees to increase refugee representation in the refugee health workforce. This is to improve health outcomes for former refugees and their families.

This scholarship fund will assist recipients to commence or complete their undergraduate, post-graduate or other health-related education and training. The qualification could be a Bachelors, Masters, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate, or Graduate Diploma.

2. Eligibility

Applicants must:

- 2.1 Be a former refugee or the child of a former refugee. Former refugees include those who resettled in New Zealand through one of the following pathways:
 - 2.1.1 Convention Refugee,
 - 2.1.2 UNHCR Quota programme
 - 2.1.3 Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship.
 - 2.1.4 Child means people who were born in New Zealand, but their parent(s) or guardian(s) resettled in New Zealand as former refugees.
- 2.2 Have successfully completed at least one year of tertiary study, and
- 2.2 Be enrolled or intending to enrol in full time study in a health-related qualification with at least one year of full-time study remaining at the time of the award. Eligible qualifications must be at level 7 or above and offered by a NZQA-accredited tertiary providers with at least one year of full-time study remaining at the time of the award.
- 2.3 Have the potential to complete their chosen qualification.

- 2.4 A New Zealand Citizen, Permanent Resident or Resident visa and ordinarily resident in New Zealand.

3. Selection Criteria

In making the award the selection committee will consider each candidate's application as it relates to the following criteria:

- 3.1 impact of the scholar on refugee health outcomes
- 3.2 impact of the scholar on the refugee health workforce
- 3.3 impact of the scholarship to the scholar
- 3.4 likelihood of successfully attaining qualification

Note: Priority will be given to those who are studying an in-demand discipline and have a short lead time until entering the workforce.

4. Applications

- 4.1 As part of the application candidates will be asked to:
 - 4.1.1 Provide personal and contact details.
 - 4.1.2 Supply proof of permanent residency via refugee background status, most commonly the Immigration New Zealand (INZ) issued Certificate of Identity or INZ letter which confirms date of birth, Refugee status and Permanent Residency
 - 4.1.3 Submit a CV including any prior health work experience.
- 4.2 Write or upload a statement that describes:
 - 4.2.1 Your financial position. This includes:
 - 4.2.1.1 The ways in which you are currently supported financially.
 - 4.2.1.2 How you would use the scholarship.
 - 4.2.1.3 What benefits and impact this scholarship would make to you and your family.
 - 4.2.2 The potential impact you intend to have on the refugee health workforce and refugee health outcomes.
 - 4.2.3 The strengths, attributes, and support systems you have which would equip you to successfully attain your qualification and enter the health workforce.
 - 4.2.4 A personal reference – this could be from a community leader, employer, teacher, or other person who can speak to the attributes of the applicant including comments on any potential impact that the applicant may make to the NZ health workforce.
 - 4.2.5 An academic reference – an academic advisor or supervisor at their institution, or a teacher from their school,
 - 4.2.6 Current academic transcript (or equivalent).
 - 4.2.7 Copies of any other transcripts for all previous study (complete or not complete), including, English Language, university foundation or preparation studies, NCEA or university results.

5. Selection Committee

The scholarship is awarded by a selection committee consisting of:

- up to four members appointed by the NLCS, one of whom shall be the Chair,
- one academic member nominated by UNZ

The Selection Committee may invite shortlisted applicants to attend an online interview.

The decisions of the Selection Committee are final. All shortlisted applicants will be offered the opportunity to receive feedback on their application by contacting the nzrefugeehealthscholarships@mbie.govt.nz email address. Feedback will be coordinated through the NLCS secretariat support.

6. Tenure

6.1 Term

The scholarships are awarded annually with a tenure of one year. The scholarship must be taken up in the year for which it was offered. The scholarship is for full-time study such that the recipient may complete their qualification in the minimum time stipulated for that qualification. Successful scholars may apply in future years.

6.1 Co-tenure

The recipient may not hold additional scholarships without the approval of the Chair of the Selection Committee, who if approving co-tenure may vary the value or tenure of this scholarship.

6.2 Reports

Scholars must supply a satisfactory report and an academic transcript at the end of each semester throughout the tenure of the scholarship, as detailed in the offer letter.

6.3 Deferral of Study

The scholarship may not be deferred nor suspended during the tenure, except under exceptional circumstances and with approval from the Chair of the Selection Committee.

6.4 Suspension and Termination

- 6.4.1 The funder may at any time suspend or terminate the scholarship or require the forfeiture of such proportion of the scholarship as NLCS may determine, if it is not satisfied that the recipient is diligently pursuing the approved programme or if the recipient has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded.

6.4.2 If the scholar ceases enrolment or takes leave of absence, other than approved annual leave, the scholarship will cease or be suspended as appropriate.

7. Value

7.1 Number and value

The number and value of scholarships will be determined annually by the funder. Each scholar will receive a scholarship with the value set up to \$25,000.

7.1.1 Payment will be made in two equal instalments and can be used toward tuition fees, course costs, compulsory student services fees and other living costs.

7.1.2 Funding of the second semester during the tenure of the scholarship is conditional upon the scholar passing all courses in the first semester.

8. Publicity, media, and presentations

Recipients consent to their information being shared on NLCS and UNZ communication platforms for the purpose of promoting the scholarship programme and sharing their achievements. No information will be shared without the approval of the scholar.