

## SPARK SCHOLARSHIP

Spark New Zealand is the country's major digital services company, delivering platforms and products that help connect millions of New Zealanders to their digital lives. Spark is committed to developing New Zealand's digital capability and workforce of the future.

The Spark Scholarship aims to foster a more diverse digital talent pool, and equip highly talented New Zealand women with the skills they need to succeed in a digital future through sponsorship of study in a technology-related discipline at a New Zealand university.

### *Eligibility*

An applicant must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- female
- studying or planning on studying for a Bachelors degree at a New Zealand university.

### *Number and value*

Up to five scholarships are awarded each year, and each scholarship carries an award of up to \$5,000, with tenure for up to three years (\$15,000 in total over three years of an undergraduate degree).

The scholarships are tenable with other awards, but account will be taken of the aggregate circumstances of the individual and the donor's wish to use available funds to best advantage.

### *Conditions*

The scholarships can be awarded to applicants studying full time at university for the first time towards an undergraduate degree in a technology-related discipline at a New Zealand university. For a list of the fields of study that the selection committee will consider in order to make the awards see the **Appendix**.

Applicants who already have an undergraduate degree from or were once enrolled in a New Zealand or overseas university will not be considered.

Applicants who have qualified with sub-degree undergraduate courses from a university in New Zealand or overseas can apply for the scholarship.

Applicants who have studied at and/or graduated from a polytechnic or other tertiary training institution (not a university) in New Zealand or overseas will be able to apply for the scholarship.

There is no age restriction.

There are no interviews for the scholarship.

Each award is for tenure at the start of the academic year in the year following application. For award continuation scholars must be passing with a B average.

### *Application*

Candidates must complete an application using the Universities New Zealand online scholarships application website:

<https://universitiesnz.communityforce.com>

### **The closing date is 1 October at 5pm.**

The application form will request and applicants must:

- a) nominate two referees; for school leavers one referee must be a secondary school teacher.
- b) provide proof of academic achievement or work experience:
  - applicants in Year 13 must attach their most recent official School Results Summary from NZQA and/or official results for Cambridge or IB exams (if applicable)
  - mature applicants provide a CV.
- c) provide a statement explaining:
  - why they have chosen to study their particular programme
  - goals from their degree
  - their creative and innovative ability
  - their leadership potential/ability
  - the need for the scholarship
  - future plans.
- d) provide any other information that they judge relevant to the application.

### *Selection and assessment criteria*

The Selection Committee will assess the overall quality of applications and focus on:

- creativity and innovative ability
- enthusiasm for working in technology
- demonstration of leadership or leadership potential
- academic achievement or work experience
- strength of references.

### *Selection Committee*

The Spark Scholarship Selection Committee will be made up of two people appointed by Spark and two academic members appointed by Universities New Zealand. The Committee has the power to co-opt additional members if necessary.

### *Nomination and selection*

No award shall be made in a year in which the Committee finds no applicant to be eligible and worthy.

Spark reserves the right to award a larger or smaller sum than the value stipulated, as and when it determines.

The Committee's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

### *Finance and administration*

The scholarships will be administered by Universities New Zealand which will be responsible for publicising the availability of the scholarships on the UNZ website, receiving applications, assisting the Committee in the selection process, advising candidates of the results, and arranging for payments.

### *Power to vary*

Spark, or the Selection Committee with the approval of Spark, may from time to time vary these regulations provided that such changes are consistent with the general purposes of the scholarship.

Spark New Zealand and Universities New Zealand may at any time suspend or terminate any scholarship, or require the forfeiture of such proportion of the scholarship as the Committee may determine, if it is satisfied that the scholar is not diligently pursuing the approved programme or has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded. The scholarship shall be terminated and no further payments shall be made if a scholar ceases to pursue the approved programme.

### *Publicity*

Scholars will agree to have their name and image published and be available for interviews with the media if required.

## **Appendix**

Below is a list of academic majors or specialisations considered relevant by the Selection Committee and the donor.

Applied computing  
Computational intelligence  
Computational modelling  
Computer and mobile systems  
Computer science  
Computer systems engineering  
Design for technology  
Digital design  
Digital technology  
Electrical and electronics engineering  
Electronics and computer engineering  
Engineering and innovation management  
Information science  
Information systems  
Information technology  
IT service science  
Logic and computation  
Media design  
Network and communication  
Networks and security  
Network engineering  
Programming  
Software development  
Software engineering  
Telecommunications

**IMPORTANT: If you are unsure whether your intended programme of study is eligible or not, email [scholarships@universitiesnz.ac.nz](mailto:scholarships@universitiesnz.ac.nz)**