

Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Rural New Zealand Health Scholarships

Study area(s): Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health
Colleges of Study: New Zealand University; PTE; Polytechnic
Scholarship level: First-year Tertiary students,
Closing date(s): 30th September, 2025
Scholarship Type/ Number offered: Fourteen students from rural communities. At least four of these will be targeted at Māori/Pasifika.
Value: \$5,000 per Scholarship.

Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua scholarships are for rural youth entering their first year of full-time undergraduate study in Medicine, Nursing, or Allied Health-related courses at New Zealand Universities, Polytechnics, or PTEs.

Each scholarship will be for one year, to support the first year of study, accommodation, and study resources.

The scholarships are open to **secondary school students planning to enter tertiary study in the following year**. Applicants must reside in a rural part of New Zealand and have experienced financial and/or geographical hardships due to their rural residency. The Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarships hope to encourage and support rural youth in their pursuit of an education in health, through reducing financial hardships.

Eligibility

Applicants must be New Zealand citizens or permanent residents and have proven long-term residence in a rural location in New Zealand.

Must be a recent school leaver of a secondary education, entering their first year of tertiary education.

Applicants must be able to prove enrolment in their chosen field of study before the scholarship will be paid.

Value and number of scholarships awarded

Each scholarship is worth \$5,000.

Fourteen scholarships are available this year, with four scholarships dedicated to students of Māori and/or Pasifika descent.

Awarded applicants studying nursing or medicine may apply to do a placement on the Mobile Health unit and will be prioritised ahead of other applicants.

Closing date

30th September 2025 (NZDT)

How to apply

Read the [Scholarship Guidelines](#) and confirm your eligibility to apply for this scholarship.

If you wish to submit your application:

- Fill out the template [Cover Letter](#), explaining your rural residency, financial hardships, tertiary health interest, etc.
- Compile two Written Letter References supporting your scholarship application (*Note: for our Māori and Pasifika applications, one of the references must be a member that can support your ethnicity)
- Compile these three documents into a single file (preferably PDF; not a zip folder) and email to scholarships@htrhn.org.nz.

All information will be held in the strictest confidence.

Decisions made

October 30th, 2025.

If you are accepted as a recipient of a scholarship, you will need to show proof of your application and acceptance into a health course.

Application

Student Name:	
Date:	
Māori and Pasifika Scholarship:	Yes / No
Rural Residential Township:	
Secondary School Education:	
Applying to study which Degree/s (If not stated, please elaborate what career you wish to pursue from the degree):	
Contact Email (Please provide a contact other than your school email):	
Contact Number:	

Why should you receive this scholarship?

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What rural hardships may prevent you from studying health?

Why are you pursuing an education in health?

State any extracurricular activities, volunteering, or events that support your application

Please attach this application and your two supporting written reference letters, and send to scholarships@htrhn.org.nz

***Note:** for our Māori and Pasifika applications, one of the reference letters must be a member of your iwi or community that can verify your ethnicity.

Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarship Guidelines

Table of Contents

Purpose	6
Eligibility	7
Application process	7
Selection process	11
Administration and payment	12

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Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Committee 2025:

Mark Eager

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Purpose

Hauora Taiwhenua | Mobile Health is working in partnership to financially support rural youth to pursue an education and career in health.

New Zealand's Current Health Workforce

Our rural health workforce has been under pressure for a long time due to chronic workforce shortages throughout rural New Zealand. At any given time, about a third of all rural practices have vacancies for GPs, both long and short term. Many of our understaffed rural practices are being run by dedicated health professionals (nurse practitioners, rural nurse specialists, nurses) who are working overtime, after hours, and sometimes for days and weeks on end. The shortages extend beyond GPs and nurses to all forms of allied health – practice managers, physiotherapists, health coaches, pharmacists, kaiāwhina, and others.

We have a serious shortage of doctors, nurses, midwives and other health professionals in rural areas. In the next 10 years, about 50% of our GPs are set to retire. While we currently rely on international doctors and nurses to fill the gaps in our rural workforce, the long-term solution is to train more doctors, nurses and other health professionals here in New Zealand and prepare and encourage them to work in our rural areas.

New Zealand's Rural Youth

A solution to reducing the rural health care worker shortage is through supporting the rural youth in these communities. Many universities and organisations already see the benefits of supporting rural youth in their pursuit, with programmes and pathways helping introduce and support them to varying health careers (Rural Health Careers Promotion programme, Rural Medical Immersion Programme, Regional Rural Admission Scheme, etc). However, we also understand that it comes at a higher cost for rural youth due to the distances and often unfamiliar environments that they must move to.

Eligibility

Applications are accepted from candidates who meet the following criteria:

- Applying for full-time study in a health-related course at their chosen tertiary institution in New Zealand (awarded applicants must show that they have gained entrance to their course prior to the scholarship being processed),
- Must be a recent school leaver of a secondary education entering their first year of tertiary education.
- Be a New Zealand Citizen or permanent residents with at least five years proven residence in New Zealand,
- Be a proven long-term residence of a rural location,
- Can demonstrate hardship at the time of application,
- Shows enthusiasm and certainty for health, particularly in their chosen field.

Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarship Criteria

Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarships are intended to assist individuals financially during their first year of full-time tertiary study. All applications must involve study in a health-related field, and the applicant must be residing in a rural location prior to undertaking their tertiary study.

Applicants, regardless of their nationality, can apply for a Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarship. However, four of the fourteen awarded scholarships will be awarded to an applicant with Māori/Pasifika descent.

Applicants who wish to study abroad (outside of New Zealand) will not be eligible to apply.

Applicants who have already started some form of tertiary study before the 1st of November 2025 are not eligible to apply.

Applicants who have not resided in a rural region or are not able to provide proof of living in a rural region of New Zealand for a long-term period before their application, are not eligible to apply.

Further advantage of a Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarship

Awarded applicants may apply to do a placement on the Mobile Health Bus/truck and will be prioritised ahead of other applicants if within eligibility of their course of study. <https://mobilehealth.co.nz/>

Study integrity

Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua expects responsible conduct of study from its awardees. All study activities supported by the Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarships must be in compliance with the respective institutions code of conduct and integrity and ethics requirements.

Awarded applicants will be asked to provide evidence that they have been accepted to their planned study area at their institution. If evidence cannot be provided, funding will be withheld and given to the next applicable applicant.

Number of applications per candidate

Candidates may only submit one application. If they are applying to multiple institutions, this may be specified on the application form.

Apprenticeships and applied projects

Applications to apply for apprenticeship style study (or where funding is being provided alongside study) will not be considered.

Application process

Applications for Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarship are accepted via the Hauora Taiwhenua online application form and submitted through the scholarships@HTRHN.org.nz email.

Applications, as well as all supporting documentation, must be submitted by September 30th, 2025. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

Results will be announced by the October 30th, 2025.

The application form may be closed for short periods for technical and maintenance purposes. Occasional downtimes may occur at any time. Candidates must take these potential issues into consideration during their application process.

Applications must be written in English, and no special formatting is allowed. Similarly, figures and tables cannot be included in the application.

Applications and supporting documentation are only accepted via the scholarships@HTRHN.org.nz email.

No application will be deemed complete without all the information required, including supporting documentation.

The date on which the candidates successfully submit their application is the reference date for eligibility and evaluation.

Changes in address or contact email that occur after submission of an application are the only changes permitted after the application is submitted without re-opening it. All other changes will require the office to re-open the application and this will cause a change in the submission date to the date on which the application is again completed and submitted. Please note that this may cause the application to become ineligible. Once the application enters the evaluation process no further changes are allowed.

IMPORTANT: An application is only regarded as complete once all the required information is submitted and the candidate confirms completion. Applications completed after 5pm September 30th, 2025, will not be evaluated. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

For a detailed description of the information that will be requested during the application process, screenshots of the online form are included in the Annex.

Selection process

The primary selection criteria applied by the Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarship Committee are Secondary School excellence of the candidate, other contributions to the community, enrolment in health-related tertiary study (this may be pending at the time of application), residing in rural New Zealand and hardship.

Aspects considered in particular are:

Secondary school achievements of the applicant

- NCEA results, other achievements and community commitments and cover letter.
- Performance of the applicant based on reference letters.

Study proposal

- Quality, scope, and significance of the proposed study.

Residing in rural New Zealand

- Suitability of current residence as rural New Zealand.

Hardship

- Explanation of hardship

Administration and payment

The scholarships will be administered by Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network which will be responsible for publicising the availability of the scholarships on the Hauora Taiwhenua website, receiving applications, assisting the Committee in the selection process, advising candidates of the results, and arranging for payments.

Payments are made in two instalments: one of \$3,000 and one of \$2,000. The first instalment will be made upon Hauora Taiwhenua receiving confirmation of enrolment in the agreed programme. To receive the second instalment Hauora Taiwhenua must receive evidence of continued enrolment in semester two of the programme.