Scholarship, in honour of the Polish children  
and caregivers of Pahīatua

**Closing date: 18 October 2025**

**PURPOSE**

This scholarship is in honour of the 733 Polish children and their mainly female caregivers who, initially deported from Eastern Poland to Siberia during World War II, were invited by the New Zealand government to stay in Pahīatua in 1944. Many of these children, most of them orphans and without their families, remained in New Zealand when they could not return to Poland, building new lives in their ‘paradise’.

Nina Tomaszyk wanted to acknowledge this Polish group of Pahīatua and also the people of NZ for their hospitality and generosity. She is President of the Auckland Polish Association; granddaughter of one of the caregivers, Krystyna Skwarko (who wrote The Invited) and daughter of Krystyna Tomaszyk (who wrote the books Essence and Polish children in Isfahan 1042 to 1944, which are available in Polish and English); also General Manager of the Kate Edger Foundation. Nina saw the importance of education to the Polish community, and to all communities through her work at Kate Edger Foundation, so thought a scholarship was one of the ways to commemorate the arrival of the group in 1944.

The scholarship recognises women committed to community engagement or cultural preservation. It is intended to assist women students currently in Year 12 or 13 at a secondary school in Auckland or Northland, who will be enrolling full-time for a degree or diploma at an approved tertiary institute in the Auckland or Northland region in 2026. The Award is available to contribute towards the payment of fees or living costs associated with tertiary study.

The Kate Edger Foundation encourages, advances, and promotes education, empowering women. It is neutral and independent of all institutes and offers unbiased and professional Selection Panels, under the wing of the Awards Committee. The Board of the Kate Edger Foundation consists of six professionals. The scholarships provide financial assistance as well as recognition and encouragement of students’ commitment to attaining their education goals.

**Donations towards this scholarship are much appreciated (100% of the donation will go to the recipient of the scholarship).** Tax receipt will be provided.

Enquiries to:   
Nina Tomaszyk, General Manager [nina.tomaszyk@KateEdgerFoundation.org.nz](mailto:nina.tomaszyk@KateEdgerFoundation.org.nz), or

Awards Coordinator [awards@kateedgerfoundation.org.nz](mailto:awards@kateedgerfoundation.org.nz)

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**REGULATIONS**

1. An Award of $2,000 to support full-time study (120 points per annum).
2. The applicant must be:
   1. a female, New Zealand Citizen or **Permanent** Resident.
   2. an enrolled student at a secondary school in Auckland or Northland.
   3. intending to enrol full-time in a degree course at an NZQA-approved tertiary institute in Auckland or Northland.
3. In making this award, the selection committee shall consider:
   1. applicant’s need for financial assistance;
   2. applicant’s academic record as evidence of ability to complete the course;
   3. applicant's commitment to community engagement and/or cultural preservation;
   4. referee’s report;
   5. applicant’s aspirations for the future;
   6. any special circumstances considered relevant, e.g. family responsibilities
4. This award may be held concurrently with an award of any value if the regulations for that award so permit.
5. The Award shall be paid on the presentation of proof of enrolment as a full-time student at a NZQA approved institute in New Zealand.
6. The successful applicant is required to complete a brief report at the end of their first year of study.
7. Each applicant for these awards must submit their application **on the current prescribed application form**, together with:
   1. certified copy or statutory declaration of academic record (from the last two years of secondary study);
   2. certified copy of evidence of status as a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident (not Driver Licence);
   3. certified copy of evidence of status as an enrolled student at an Auckland or Northland secondary school (e.g. copy of student ID).
   4. certified statement on the prescribed form.

**“Certified copy” means a copy of the original, certified as true by an appropriate authority (for example, Registrar, Head of Department or Study Supervisor, or Justice of the Peace).   
  
A “Statutory Declaration” must be made before a Justice of the Peace or Solicitor on the appropriate form.**

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Application Form

All information provided is confidential.

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Click here to enter text.   
Mobile: Click here to enter text.

Email: Click here to enter text.

Address: Click here to enter text.

Date of Birth: Click here to enter text.

Ethnicity (optional): Click here to enter text.

Will you be a full-time student next year? Choose an item.

Will you be enrolled in the first year of a degree or diploma? Choose an item.

Are you a New Zealand citizen? Choose an item.

Are you a Permanent Resident of New Zealand? Choose an item.

Which school are you currently enrolled in? Choose an item.

**Please supply a certified copy of evidence of your citizenship status: a birth certificate, citizenship certificate or relevant passport pages (e.g. if you are a Permanent Resident, you must supply a copy of your Permanent Resident Visa). If you are offered an award, you will be required to prove that you will be enrolled as a full-time student for the duration of the award.**

1. ACADEMIC GOALS

Which tertiary institute will you be attending? Click here to enter the name of the institution.

What degree are you intending to enrol in? Click here to enter the name of your qualification.

What are your main subjects of specialisation? Click here to enter your expected major(s).

What is the expected date of completion of your degree? Click here to enter a date.

**Please attach a certified copy of the results of your last two years of secondary study to support your application.**

1. FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

What sources of income/funding do you have or hope to have to assist you in funding your studies?(e.g. income support, student allowance, student loan, paid employment, other awards or scholarships etc.)

Click here and write up to 300 words.

Please note any special circumstances (family, personal, or financial) that could be considered as part of your application. These could include number and ages of siblings or children, health/disability status, your debt situation:

Click here and write up to 300 words.

1. PERSONAL STATEMENT

Briefly describe yourself and your future goals once you have completed your course of study:

Click here and write up to 300 words.

1. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Briefly outline your involvement in your community and/or cultural activities:

Click here and write up to 300 words.

1. VERIFICATION

Please provide verification on the prescribed form (next page) signed by someone who knows you well, but who is not a close relative, that the contents of your application are true and you have a genuine desire to gain a qualification.

Give the name of the person you have asked to make this verification here:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name  Click here to enter text. | Address (postal or email)  Click here to enter text. |

FINAL CHECK

Please check each statement to confirm you have met all requirements:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I have read the purpose and regulations of the award |  |
| I will be enrolling as a full-time student |  |
| I have given full details in every section |  |
| I have enclosed all the supporting documents required, including proof of Permanent residency or citizenship, most recent academic results, and proof of enrolment at my secondary school |  |
| I have included a signed verification form |  |

(N.B. A Statutory Declaration is available at the end of this application form.)

**The Selection Panel will NOT consider applications that do not contain the required information.**

Please keep a copy of your application.

Your signature:

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Referee Report and Verification of Application

This Award is funded by the Polish community, in memory of over 700 Polish children and their mainly female caregivers who, displaced by World War II, were invited by the New Zealand government to relocate to a settlement in Pahīatua in 1944. Many of these children, most of them orphans and without their families, remained in New Zealand and built new lives here.

This Award recognises women committed to community engagement, cultural preservation, or academic achievement. It is intended to assist women students currently in Year 13 at a secondary school in Auckland or Northland, who will be enrolling full-time for a degree or diploma at an approved tertiary institute in the Auckland or Northland region in 2026. The Award is available to contribute towards the payment of fees or living costs associated with tertiary study.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant** | **Referee** |
| Name: Click here to enter text. | Name: Click here to enter text. |
| Address: Click here to enter text. | Address: Click here to enter text. |
|  | Occupation: Click here to enter text. |

I, click here to enter the verifier’s full name, certify that I have read this application and I believe the statements made by the applicant about the course in which the applicant is enrolled, and the applicant’s circumstances, to be true.

What information can you give about the applicant, their academic achievements, and their commitment to community engagement or cultural preservation?

Click here to enter text.

How long have you known the applicant?

Click here to enter text.

In what capacity do you know the applicant?

Click here to enter text.

Signed: Date: Click here to enter a date.

STATUTORY DECLARATION

For downloaded documents

**I**

Click here to enter your full legal name

**of**

Click here to enter your residential address.

**solemnly and sincerely declare that the following documents (copies of which are attached to this declaration) have been obtained and printed without alteration from the internet or email sources**

¶ *Note: what you write must be true. You can be prosecuted for making a false declaration*.

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| Click here to enter website URL or sender’s email address. |

¶ *Note: do not complete the section below until you are with the Justice witnessing your declaration*.

**I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957.**

Your signature:

Declared at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_ before me:

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Signed:

Justice of the Peace for New Zealand