

PVGA Scholarship

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About PVGA

The Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association is a charitable organisation operating in the Auckland and Waikato regions. The association has existed in various forms since the early 1900's, representing over 230 vegetable-growing businesses in Auckland.

These range from small family businesses to large corporate operations, some of which have a presence throughout New Zealand. The growers produce a significant proportion of fresh vegetables for the Auckland region, as well as export crops such as onions, potatoes, buttercup squash, capsicums, tomatoes, and carrots.

In 2018, the Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association celebrated its centenary with events including a gala dinner to honour growers' contributions over the past 100 years and to look towards the future. During this event, the association announced a fund to support young people entering the vegetable-growing industry, which now finances this scholarship.

Objectives

The Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association Scholarships aim to assist individuals furthering their education in all aspects of horticulture, with a particular emphasis on vegetable growing.

Scholarship Value

The scholarship amount varies each year, depending on the funds available. The total annual fund is \$5,000, which may be awarded to one student or split between multiple recipients in 2027.

Payment

The scholarship is for the 2027 calendar year and will be paid upon successful completion of the year's study, with a pass mark required in all subjects. Applicants may re-apply for the scholarship in subsequent years.

Eligibility Criteria

- 01 Applicants must be full- or part-time students enrolled in a horticultural degree, diploma, or certificate, or a similar program applicable to horticulture from a reputable provider.
- 02 The course of study may include both theoretical and practical components.
- 03 Applicants must be New Zealand citizens or permanent residents with their family home within the boundaries of the Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association.
- 04 There is no age limit; however, preference will be given to first-time students.

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will consider:

- 01 Commitment and acumen.
- 02 Potential contribution to horticulture, particularly in vegetable growing.
- 03 Past achievements.
- 04 Individual qualities and skills.
- 05 Referees' comments.

The decision of the selection team is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Interview Process

Interviews will be held Monday 30 November 2026 at the BNZ Partners Centre, Pukekohe. The panel will include up to four members.

Disclosure of Results

If you are awarded a scholarship, you agree to allow your academic results to be released to the Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association so they can follow your progress.

Application Deadlines

Applications open Monday 31 August 2026.

Applications close on Monday, 16 November 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

Submission Detail

Candidates must submit applications to the Scholarship Coordinator:

Email: secretary@pvga.org.nz

Referees

You are responsible for contacting your referees and ensuring they send their references directly to the scholarship coordinator. Referees must not send references to you to maintain confidentiality. References must be received by Monday, 16 November 2026.

Required Documents

Please include with your application:

- 01 A copy of your birth certificate or passport (do not send the original).
- 02 The completed application form.
- 03 Relevant information outlining how you meet the selection criteria.

Privacy Provisions (Privacy Act 1993)

The information requested in this application form will be used solely for assessing your application for the award. Personal information contained in this application will only be made available to members of the selection panel for this award. The panel will also use references obtained from third parties designated by you in assessing your application.

The panel undertakes to store your application securely if you are successful in gaining an award and to destroy your application to preserve its confidentiality if you are unsuccessful. Personal references from the persons you have named are obtained on the strict understanding that they are confidential, and you may not have access to those references without the written authorisation of the referee.

By making this application, you agree to the selection panel contacting your referees and your course supervisor for the purposes of assessing your application.