



New Zealand Scholar, Olive Leilua, graduated from Victoria University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration

The New Zealand Scholarships selection process is designed to identify applicants with the qualities they need to succeed at their studies and to adjust to life in New Zealand or the Region.

We are looking for **well-rounded applicants** with the **motivation and potential** to contribute to Samoa's development on their return home.

The selection process

We use several ways to assess scholarship applicants to help us identify the **best all-round scholars** – those who are academically capable, self-driven and resilient, and who can communicate clearly and work well with others.

A number of assessment tools will be used throughout the selection process. This process is outlined below:

1. Students who achieve an average of **at least 75%** in their Foundation certificate semester one results at NUS or USP will be invited to apply.
2. Applicants complete an **online application form** that includes questions about their **motivation for applying** for a scholarship and the relevance of the study they want to take to the **development of Samoa**. Other competencies assessed at this stage include applicants' **readiness** to study overseas, their **self-drive** to achieve and their ability to build **relationships** with others.

Independent assessors assess each application and score the applicant's answers.

The application form comprises 20% of the total selection score.

3. **Academic performance** will be based on Foundation certificate results. This score will initially be based on **semester one** results, and will be updated on the release of **semester two** results. This update may impact an applicant's position within the final ranked list.

Academic performance comprises 40% of the total selection score.

4. All applicants are asked to complete an **online abstract reasoning test**. This helps us understand *how* they learn, rather than *what* they know.

The abstract reasoning test comprises 20% of the total selection score.

5. Applicants who have scored highly on their semester one results, the application form and abstract reasoning are invited to an **interview**. At the interview, they answer questions to demonstrate their **commitment to Samoa, judgment, resilience** and **integrity**.

Applicants also confirm their preferred qualification and major at the interview. Course changes are not allowed.

The interview comprises 20% of the total selection score.

6. **Semester two results** are released and added to applicants' semester one grades.

7. Each applicant's **total selection score** determines whether they make the final list of successful applicants.

As outlined above, the total selection score comprises of applicants' demonstration of competencies throughout the selection process:

Stage	Competencies assessed	Weighting
Academic performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic capability 	40%
Application form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevance of proposed study to the development of Samoa Relationship management Self-drive Readiness 	20%
Abstract reasoning test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning agility 	20%
Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevance of proposed study to the development of Samoa Commitment to Samoa Communication Integrity Judgement Resilience 	20%
Total		100%

8. **Successful applicants are notified** and commence the admission process for their approved study programme at institutions in New Zealand or the Pacific.

Frequently asked questions

What makes a successful applicant?

- Applicants must have a clear understanding of the qualification they want to study and how this can contribute to Samoa's development. They will need to demonstrate this in the application form and at their interview.
- Applicants must have good grades; at least 75% or higher across top four subjects including English but excluding Samoan language HSA001/002.
- Applicants must have some understanding of the challenges they may encounter when studying in a different country and how they could overcome these.
- Further information on what makes a great applicant can be found on our website: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/schols>

Who is eligible to apply?

All Foundation Year students at the National University of Samoa (NUS) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) who meet the academic and other eligibility criteria will be eligible to apply.

Is there still a limited number of scholarships available for law, engineering with honours and medicine?

Yes. For the 2019 selection round, there will be up to:

- One scholarship for Bachelor of Laws at the University of Waikato only
- Two scholarships for Bachelor of Engineering Honours (one at the University of Auckland and one at the University of Waikato only)
- One scholarship for Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Otago
 - Note: all scholars selected to study professional health qualifications must complete a Health Science Foundation programme at the University of Otago, then a competitive Health Science First Year. This includes scholars wishing to study Pharmacy, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Medical Laboratory Science. Only the scholar who has the best marks after these two years may be admitted to study Medicine. The remaining scholars will need to seek approval from MFAT to pursue an alternative study programme.

What about faculty allocations?

Scholarships will be available on an open, contestable basis across all faculties. There is no set number of scholarships available per faculty.

So if over 300 students had an average of over 75%, do you allow all of them to apply?

Yes.

What if I had a high average in the first semester but dropped in the second semester?

Students will be invited to apply for a New Zealand Scholarship on the basis of their first semester results only. Semester two results will be factored into applicants' total selection scores once they are released. Applicants with the *best total selection scores* will be offered a scholarship, therefore it is important that they perform well in all assessment stages in addition to achieving good grades.

It is possible an applicant with a high Foundation certificate grade average is not offered a scholarship if they do not perform well in other areas of the application process.

What happens if I make it through the entire selection process but don't secure an offer of place from my preferred institution?

Admission decisions are entirely up to the institution, and we cannot guarantee that an applicant will be offered a place at an institution simply because they have been selected for a scholarship. However, we will facilitate engagement with the institutions on course advice and planning. Academic bridging and English language training is available to support eligible students to gain entrance to their preferred study programme.

If a candidate does not secure admission to their preferred study programme, the scholarship offer will be withdrawn.

Will Foundation Year students be required to sit an IELTS test?

We do not anticipate that IELTS tests will be required for Foundation Year students in 2019, unless the institutions change their policy on this. IELTS test score requirements are set by institutions' admission departments. Currently, New Zealand institutions do not require IELTS scores for Samoa Foundation scholars, provided they complete HEN004 with a C1 or above.

If I am selected as a preferred candidate does that mean I have secured a scholarship?

Applicants must gain admission to their preferred study programme before they receive a Letter of Scholarship Offer from MFAT. Individuals must also meet all Immigration New Zealand requirements, including demonstrating a reasonable standard of health, before they can take up their scholarship.

Will I be able to commence my study in semester one 2020?

MFAT will endeavor to secure semester one placements for Samoa Foundation scholars. However, a semester one placement is *not* guaranteed. All scholars are expected to participate in institutions' orientation programmes in full. For this reason, any scholars who cannot mobilise in time to commence semester one orientation will be deferred to semester two 2020 or beyond.

Scholars must respond to requests for information from institutions and Immigration New Zealand in a timely manner.

Why are scholarships limited to the human resource development priorities of Samoa?

New Zealand Scholarships are intended to help meet the development needs of Samoa, so they are only offered in areas of study which are important for Samoa's economic growth and where the Government of Samoa has highlighted that there are specific human resource needs. It is also important that our scholarship alumni are best placed to secure employment on their return home to Samoa after completing their study.

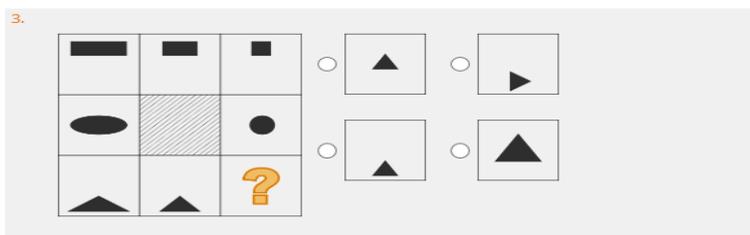
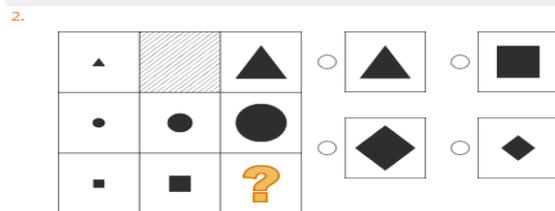
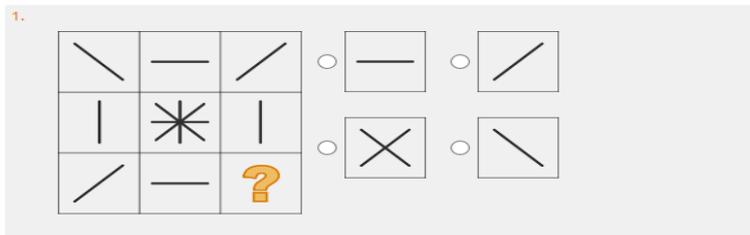
What is an Abstract Reasoning test?

Abstract reasoning tests are used to assess an applicant's general intellect and ability to work out new concepts and abstract ideas, rather than testing their prior knowledge. They rely upon an applicant's ability to see the underlying logic in a pattern of symbols or shapes (instead of relying on words or numbers). Testing of this type is independent of educational experience and cultural background.

- The online abstract reasoning test includes basic instructions in English but the questions are in *picture form*. For an example of a test, see this external website www.123test.com.

An example of an abstract reasoning test can be found below. This IS NOT from our test, but gives an indication of what abstract reasoning testing is. (Source: <https://www.123test.com/abstract-reasoning-test/>)

Which figure logically belongs on the spot of the question mark?



Where can I find further information?

Further information can be found on our website: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/schols>

For further enquiries, please email scholarships@mfat.govt.nz with 'SAMOA FOUNDATION ENQUIRY' in the subject line.