

WATERFORD KAMHLABA UWCSA POLICY: SCHOLARSHIPS

Introduction

1. Michael Stern, founding Headmaster of WK, wrote in the preamble to the WK Constitution: “Students are selected on merit (with entry tests and personal interviews) from the widest possible range of social, racial, cultural and national backgrounds, where possible without regard to parents’ ability to pay the fees, so there has always been (and as far as possible will always continue to be) a determined effort to raise funds to provide scholarship assistance for these who qualify for admission but cannot afford the (full) fees. This has particular reference and relevance to those in Swaziland (Eswatini) and in the townships and rural areas of South Africa and other parts of Africa where poverty has prevented promising candidates from realising their potential”.
2. A limited number of either full or part scholarships are awarded annually at the discretion of the Waterford Scholarships Committee (“the committee”). The decisions of the committee are final.
3. The committee comprises:
 - 3.1. The Principal
 - 3.2. The Deputy Principal
 - 3.3. The Bursar
 - 3.4. Director: Admissions
 - 3.5. The Scholarships Administrator
 - 3.6. The ADO director
 - 3.7. Any co-opted members the committee believes appropriate.
4. This policy does not apply to scholarships students selected through other agencies and UWC National Committees.

The award of scholarships

5. WK will apply the principle of awarding scholarships to students from different families.
6. All scholarships are means-tested.
7. Scholarships will only be considered for applicants seeking admission if:
 - 7.1. The student is academically excellent, taking into account his/her personal circumstances.
 - 7.2. The student receives an excellent reference from his or her current school.
 - 7.3. The student passes the WK entrance examinations at a level that would have qualified him / her for regular admission.
8. Each student under consideration for a scholarship may be interviewed by WK or its appointed agency.
9. Scholarships are granted annually after an application is made with full supporting documents (salary slips, bank statements, tax returns, etc). The factors taken into consideration in determining the scholarship award includes the salary, assets, family circumstances and any other factor the Committee considers relevant.
10. After considering these factors a percentage award will be made, for example, a 60% award means the student receives a 60% discount on most charges (see below).
11. The award is aimed at ensuring the student can participate fully in all school activities. It will therefore apply to the entrance fee, deposit, tuition fees, boarding fees, pocket money (boarders), daily bus fare (day student), exam fees, school outings, textbooks and music lessons.
12. The family will be responsible for the balance of all fees and any other charges, for example, clothing, stationery, medical expenses, and transportation to and from Eswatini (boarders).
13. A new application is required to be submitted each year and the award may be changed (refused, raised or lowered), depending on whether there has been any change in the family circumstances from the previous year.
14. Scholarship students are required to maintain satisfactory academic and general progress, participate fully in the life of the College and have an excellent disciplinary record for a scholarship to be renewed.

15. A scholarship may not be renewed in any subsequent year if the financial commitments are not met, except for clear and exceptional reasons. The committee will reconsider the level of a scholarship if the financial circumstances of the parent / guardian changes significantly.
16. A student who comes to WK as a full fee payer is not automatically eligible for a scholarship later in his or her studies at WK, even if his or her parents' / guardian's financial situation changes. It might be that a student, whose family is no longer able to afford the full school fees, be required to leave WK.
17. Discretionary scholarships: In the event of any year in the school not being full to capacity, a limited number of full-fee or part-fee scholarships may be awarded at the discretion of the principal after agreement from the Finance Committee. They will be awarded on the same basis as the award of ordinary scholarships.
18. Scholarships offered by external donors / National Committees: If donors are intent on providing a full or part Scholarship the following will be ascertained:
 - 18.1. A written undertaking will be sought that commits the donor to the current and any future fees due by the recipient until the conclusion of their education at Waterford. This includes scholarships awarded by National Committees.
 - 18.2. Regular reports from the recipient and school will be provided to the donor.
 - 18.3. Part scholarships from donors will only be accepted if the school is willing to award the balance as a scholarship.
 - 18.4. Scholarship students may be required to write to donors informing them of their progress, and, with the students' prior consent if they are over 18, or with their parents' / guardians' consent if they are not, to be used as case studies for fundraising purposes.
19. In the unlikely event that a scholarship recipient fails to fulfil the requirements of the scholarship award for any reason, and where that scholarship has been funded by a specific donor, the donor will be informed and any future funding commitment will be renegotiated in accordance with the donor's wishes.
20. WK offers a number of full scholarships to African National Committees, especially those neighbouring Eswatini and those with whom we have a productive working relationship.
21. The school also offers partial scholarships to other developing regions of the world in an effort to boost and/or maintain the diversity of our student body especially at the IBDP level.

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