

Gifford Devine Hawke's Bay Scholarship

2026 Entry Information Pack

Presented within the Napier Port Hawke's Bay Primary Sector Awards

Recognising academic excellence, leadership potential, and commitment to Hawke's Bay's primary industries.

Celebrate emerging talent – and support the future of agriculture in our region.

1. Overview & Purpose

The Hawke's Bay A&P Society owns and manages the Napier Port Hawke's Bay Primary Sector Awards, which celebrate excellence, success, innovation, and growth across Hawke's Bay's rural industries. These awards have a long history of telling the story of excellence within rural Hawke's Bay and play an important role in recognising leadership, innovation, and contribution across the sector.

The Gifford Devine Hawke's Bay Scholarship supports an outstanding tertiary student who demonstrates academic merit, leadership potential, and a strong connection to Hawke's Bay's primary industries.

The purpose of this scholarship is to identify and support emerging talent who are committed to contributing to land-based production industries, bringing their knowledge back to Hawke's Bay, and helping strengthen the region's future.

2. Why Apply?

Applying for the Hawke's Bay Scholarship is an opportunity to gain recognition, financial support, and a platform to contribute to Hawke's Bay's primary sector.

All applicants:

- Are invited to attend the Primary Sector Awards Dinner
- Connect with farmers, growers, businesses, sponsors, and industry leaders
- Contribute to celebrating and strengthening Hawke's Bay's primary industries
- Receive an annual membership to the Hawke's Bay A&P Society

Winner receives:

- Recognition as the 2026 Gifford Devine Hawke's Bay Scholarship winner at the Primary Sector Awards Dinner, acknowledged in front of industry peers
- A \$3,000 scholarship (incl. GST) payable toward course fees
- Connection with industry leaders, businesses, and future employers
- The opportunity to share your story and gain recognition across the wider sector
- Entry into the Hawke's Bay Scholarship alumni network of past winners
- Media coverage and networking opportunities relevant to the primary sector

3. Eligibility & Entry Conditions

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a full-time student enrolled in a New Zealand tertiary institution
- Be studying a programme related to land-based production industries at undergraduate (year 2+), graduate, or postgraduate level
- Be in their second-to-last or final year of study in 2026
- Have a familial association or strong personal connection to Hawke's Bay
- Have been involved in the practical aspects of land-based primary industries related to their study
- Demonstrate academic merit and leadership potential
- Intend to contribute to Hawke's Bay's primary industries after graduation

Shortlisted applicants must:

- Be available for an interview with the judging panel

The winner must:

- Be available for media enquiries and promotional opportunities if required

All material submitted will remain confidential. Runner-up names will not be published.

4. Entry Criteria

The scholarship recipient will demonstrate:

- Academic excellence in their chosen field
- Leadership potential and involvement within their study, work, or community
- Practical engagement with land-based industries
- A strong connection to Hawke's Bay and commitment to future sector contribution
- Clear long-term goals related to agriculture or primary production
- Motivation, integrity, and the ability to positively influence the sector

5. Judging Criteria & Process

Applications will be assessed by a panel of three: a representative of Gifford Devine, a representative of the Hawke's Bay A&P Society, and an independent primary sector leader.

The judging panel will consider:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic merit• Leadership ability and potential• Contribution to sector-good or community initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical experience• Strength of written responses• Alignment with the purpose and intent of the scholarship
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How Judging Works

- The judging panel reviews all written applications
- Shortlisted applicants are invited to an interview with the judging panel
- Referees or supporting contacts may be approached if required
- Final results reflect both the written application and interview performance

6. What You Need to Prepare Before Entering

To help you prepare, the online entry form will guide you through providing the following information.

Applicant Information	This section captures basic details about the entrant, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact details• Tertiary institution and programme details• Intended graduation date
Applicant Overview	A brief overview including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background and interest in your chosen field• Connection to Hawke's Bay• Relevant practical experience
Evidence of Academic & Leadership Achievement	This section captures key information that helps judges understand your academic progress, leadership qualities, and practical engagement with the primary sector, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic achievements• Community, workplace, or leadership involvement• Industry or volunteer experience• Awards or recognition
Written Statements	Answer these two questions (max 500 words for each): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What inspired your course of study, and how do you hope to contribute to Hawke's Bay's primary sector?• What is the greatest opportunity you see for the land-based production industries in Hawke's Bay?
Supporting Material	<p>The following is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certified proof of citizenship/residency• Proof of current tertiary enrolment <p>You may upload any supporting material that strengthens your entry, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testimonials• Letters of support• Articles, project summaries, or other supporting documents

All submitted material will be kept confidential unless used for agreed promotional purposes.

7. How to Enter

1. Complete the online entry form.
2. Upload the required files listed in "What You Need to Prepare Before Entering" as part of your online application.
3. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to arrange an interview with the judging panel.
4. Be available to attend the Awards Dinner (2 April 2026) if you win.

8. Key Dates - 2026

Entries Open	1 October 2025
Entries Close	28 February 2026
Judging	March 2026
Primary Sector Awards Dinner	2 April 2026

9. Contact

For questions or more information, contact:

Kahlia Ritchie – Event Manager, Napier Port Hawke's Bay Primary Sector Awards

Email: psa@hbap.co.nz Phone: 027 342 6071

10. Acknowledging Our Sponsors

With thanks to Napier Port, Gifford Devine and our valued sponsors who make these awards possible.