

## Pro-invest Group Partners with AUT to Launch RISE Hospitality & Tourism Scholarship Program

Auckland, New Zealand – Monday 29 September 2025 – [Pro-invest Group](#) and Auckland University of Technology Foundation (AUT Foundation) are pleased to announce the **Pro-invest Group RISE Hospitality & Tourism Scholarship**, a new partnership designed to remove barriers and create pathways for young New Zealanders pursuing careers in hospitality and tourism at the Auckland University of Technology (AUT).

The RISE (Reaching for Inclusion through Scholarships and Experiences) annual scholarship provides \$5,000 to students aged 18-20 who have a genuine passion for the hospitality industry but face financial barriers to accessing AUT's highly regarded hospitality and tourism programmes.

"As part of our ESG strategy, we are committed to investing in the next generation of hospitality talent by helping to address the critical workforce development that our hotel and tourism sectors need to thrive," said Dr. Sabine Schaffer, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Pro-invest Group. "The RISE scholarship not only provides financial support to AUT students but creates real career pathways for students who might otherwise face barriers to pursuing a career in one of the most rewarding and dynamic industries in the world.

With travel demand continuing to grow, the need for skilled, passionate professionals has never been greater and we are proud to invest in the future of hospitality leadership through this programme."

RISE is part of Pro-invest Group's 'One Earth, Countless Experiences' ethos which includes a number of programmes to foster inclusion, diversity, and equality within the hospitality industry and beyond. Pro-invest Group's partnership with AUT Foundation marks the next chapter for the RISE program having already made a meaningful impact in Australia since its launch with Southern Cross University in 2024 which has seen great success to date.

The Group is also committed to CARE (Creating Accessible Roles and Experiences) – a partnership with MAX Employment to provide meaningful career opportunities for people of all abilities; RADIATE with Pride which focuses on creating safe places for guests and employees free from discrimination; and the Pro-Women Leadership Alliance, which aims to increase the number of women in leadership roles.

Through the RISE program's launch in New Zealand, successful recipients gain access to mentorship opportunities with Pro-invest Group hotel executives, plus possible work experience, internships, and part-time employment opportunities. On completion of their studies, AUT graduates may be considered for full-time positions within Pro-invest Group's New Zealand hotel portfolio including voco Auckland City Centre, Holiday Inn Express Auckland City Centre, and Holiday Inn Express & Suites Queenstown, or might even have the chance to work in the Group's hotels outside of New Zealand.

Rob Campbell, Chair of the AUT Foundation and Chancellor of AUT, says the partnership reflects a shared commitment to expanding student opportunity and delivering global impact for industry and communities.



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“We’re proud to partner with Pro-invest Group to bring their successful RISE scholarship programme to AUT and Aotearoa-New Zealand. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to creating real opportunities for the next generation of hospitality and tourism leaders coming out of AUT, and to supporting students who will shape the future workforce and strengthen the industries they serve.”

The RISE scholarship is available to New Zealand citizens and permanent residents enrolled full-time in AUT’s hospitality and tourism programmes, including Bachelor of International Hospitality Management, Bachelor of Arts in Global Tourism, Bachelor of Arts in Culinary Arts, Bachelor of International Hospitality Management and Bachelor of Business Conjoint Programmes, Graduate Certificate in International Hospitality Management, and Graduate Diploma in International Hospitality Management.

Applications open 1 September and close 10 October through the [AUT Scholarships Database](#). The scholarship supports 12 months of full-time study for students beginning Semester One the following year.

For more information and to apply, visit the AUT Scholarships Database at [aut.communityforce.com](http://aut.communityforce.com)

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**Download images** [here](#).

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#### **About Pro-invest Group**

Established in 2010, Pro-invest Group is a leading integrated platform, specialising in private equity real estate, fund and asset management in Asia Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East.

Pro-invest Group has c. \$3 billion in assets under management through a combination of discretionary funds, joint ventures, and managed accounts. Pro-invest Group’s integrated platform spans the entire asset lifecycle, from securing funding and developing, operating and asset managing, through to exit strategy. Pro-invest Group’s assets include 32 hotels (approximately 6,000 rooms across open and pipeline assets), in addition to commercial and mixed-use properties. The Group’s focus on anticipating future trends in technology, Environmental Social Governance (ESG), services, and design delivers enhanced future value and protection.

Having successfully cemented its position as a leading independent management platform in Australasia, Pro-invest Group’s London office is focused on growth in the United Kingdom and Europe.

Building on its strong track record in hospitality, Pro-invest is actively diversifying into broader real estate sectors including Flex Living, Build-to-Rent (BTR) and commercial offices in addition to its hotel assets. The Group will increasingly focus on living, further strengthening its commitment to the future of urban lifestyle solutions tailored to evolving trends.



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Pro-invest Group has a strong commitment to ESG, believing that an active focus on a business's ESG impact has direct competitive, financial, social, and environmental benefits. Pro-invest Group has established its own dedicated ESG brand and ethos, 'One Earth, Countless Experiences' which focuses on integrating leading ESG principles and initiatives throughout the business and the assets under its management.

Further information found here [www.proinvestgroup.com](http://www.proinvestgroup.com)

### **About AUT Foundation**

The AUT Foundation is the official charity of Auckland University of Technology (AUT). It is responsible for managing donations to the university and facilitating philanthropic opportunities that empower students and support transformational education. The Foundation's mission is to accelerate positive impact through meaningful partnerships that benefit both AUT students and the wider community.

If you're interested in supporting students and transformative education and opportunities, the AUT Foundation would love to hear from you — reach out to the team at [foundation@aut.ac.nz](mailto:foundation@aut.ac.nz). [Find out more about AUT Foundation.](#)

### **About AUT**

Auckland University of Technology (AUT) is one of the world's best modern universities. Home to 26,000 students across three campuses, AUT has more than 60 research centres and institutes delivering leading research – from artificial intelligence to robotics, and ecology to public health. As a contemporary university, AUT is connected to an extraordinary range of organisations sharing expertise and resources, collaborating on ground-breaking research, and connecting students with industry leaders and employers. [Learn more about AUT.](#)