University of Otago Donna-Rose McKay Disability Support Scholarship

Originally established in 2012 to celebrate the 20 years of formalised support at the University of Otago for students with impairments, the scholarships were renamed in 2014 to honour the memory of Donna-Rose McKay, the former Head of Disability Information and Support and a leader in disability advocacy at the University from 1992 to 2013. The scholarships, which are made possible by the gifting of funds by Alumni and friends of the University of Otago, are offered to students who have demonstrated academic ability and who can show financial need arising from a disability.

Eligibility
Applications are open to intending students who are:

- New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.
- Intending to enrol for full-time or approved limited full-time undergraduate study at the University of Otago for the first time in the year following the closing date.
- Studying with a significant disability of at least six months previous duration, which will have substantial financial implications for their studies.

Application Process
Every applicant must:

- Submit an application to the University of Otago Doctoral and Scholarships Office by the specified closing date.
- Provide a personal statement detailing the impact of their disability on their studies.
- Provide, in the specified format, a declaration of personal and/or parental assets and income.
- Provide, in the specified format, a statement from a suitably qualified specialist confirming their disability, to be forwarded to the University of Otago Doctoral and Scholarships Office by the required date.
- Attach to their application form, or authorise access to, their most recent results in NCEA or equivalent.

Selection Process
The Selection Committee consisting of the Head of Disability Information and Support, in the chair, the Head of Alumni Relations, the Alumni Relations Campaign Officer and the Manager of Doctoral and Scholarships, or their nominees, shall consider the following factors in recommending the award of the scholarships:

- Academic ability (a minimum of NCEA Level 2 awarded with merit, or equivalent, is normally required for consideration).
- Financial need.
Financial

- The scholarship, currently valued at $5000, is normally received in the form of reduced Residential College fees and/or tuition fees for the first year of study at the University of Otago. Scholars whose normal place of residence is outside of Dunedin are guaranteed placement in a Residential College for their first year of study, though the University does not guarantee placement at the recipient’s first choice of Residential College.

Tenure

- The Scholarship will be for the first year of study only.
- The Scholarship will usually be taken up in the year for which it is awarded; however students may apply in writing to the Manager, Doctoral and Scholarships Office, for permission to defer starting the scholarship for up to one year. Deferrals will not usually be granted where a recipient is proceeding to study at another tertiary institution prior to taking up the scholarship.
- The University of Otago Disability Support Scholarship may be held concurrently with the University of Otago Dux Scholarship, but in such cases the remuneration for the Dux Scholarship will not be paid. The Scholarship may not be held concurrently with any other University of Otago scholarship valued at more than $3,000.

Other Requirements

Each Scholarship recipient must:

- Obtain entrance to the University.
- Agree to reasonable requests from the University of Otago to appropriately represent the University and the scholarship.