R & E Seelye Trust Academic Excellence Scholarship

Established by the R & E Seelye Trust in 2011 to assist up to three new undergraduate students each year who have demonstrated outstanding academic potential and leadership capabilities to attend the University of Otago.

While assisting with general charitable causes, the R & Seelye Trust has a strong emphasis on education.

Eve Seelye came to New Zealand as a refugee (with her parents) from Austria. Her family were escaping from the Holocaust, which claimed the rest of her family. Her father was a doctor and retrained and practiced in New Zealand. Eve followed her father into medicine and was a prominent anaesthetist assisting with some of the pioneering heart surgery. Ralph and Eve Seelye went to study in Oxford (United Kingdom) after Eve had been awarded a fellowship. Ralph completed a doctorate at Oxford.

Eligibility

Applications are open to intending students who:

- Are New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.
- Are intending to enrol for full-time study towards an undergraduate degree at the University of Otago for the first time in the year and/or semester following the closing date.

Application Process

Every applicant must:

- Complete the application form and apply to the University of Otago Doctoral and Scholarships Office by the specified closing date.
- Arrange for a reference from their School Principal, Deputy Principal, Assistant Principal, Year 13 Dean or equivalent, 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.
- Provide details of involvement in activities in which they have shown leadership, as outlined on the application form.
Selection Process
The University and the R & E Seelye Trust shall consider the following factors in recommending the award of the scholarships:

- Academic excellence (a minimum of NCEA Level 2 awarded with excellence, or equivalent, is required for consideration).
- Demonstrated leadership ability (this may be demonstrated through leadership in school, sporting, cultural and/or community settings).

Financial
The Scholarship provides support for three years of undergraduate study to a minimum value of $30,000, as follows:

- For the first year of study at the University of Otago, the scholarship will consist of an accommodation fee waiver for the full cost of accommodation in a University or University-affiliated residential college or, for students who do not take up this option, $10,000 comprising a tuition fees waiver and a contribution to general living costs.¹
- $10,000 for each of the second and third years comprising a tuition fees waiver and a contribution to general living costs.

If the student withdraws from study or fails to maintain a B+ average or equivalent, all payments will cease. Any other financial arrangements shall be at the discretion of the University.

Tenure
- The Scholarship will be for up to three years of study, dependent on a B+ grade average or equivalent being maintained (per semester).
- 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 R & E Seelye Trust Academic Excellence 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 R & E Seelye Trust Academic Excellence Scholarship may not be held concurrently with any other University of Otago Scholarship.

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.
- Agree to the University providing an annual academic progress report to the R & E Seelye Trust.

¹ Priority in the use of the scholarships funds will normally be given to residential college accommodation firstly, the tuition fees waiver secondly, and a contribution to general living costs thirdly. Any contribution to general living costs will be paid as a lump sum instalment per semester.