



Fastier Postgraduate Scholarship

Established in 2025 by the University of Otago through a generous donation from the Fastier Pharmacology Research Fund, founded by the late Professor Frederick Noel Fastier (1920 - 2021). Professor Fastier was a pioneering academic in the study of pharmacology at the University of Otago. After completing a Master's degree in chemistry at the University of Otago and a DPhil degree at Oxford University, then working for a period overseas, Professor Fastier returned to Dunedin and taught pharmacology at the University between 1949 and 1980. In 1969, he was appointed foundation chair in the newly formed Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy, and was key in the development of the first pharmacy curriculum.

The purpose of this award is to provide financial support each year to one or more University of Otago students for one year of (non-PhD) postgraduate research in the subject area of Pharmacology.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder
- enrolled (or planning to enrol) in any postgraduate programme such as an Honours or Master's degree (excluding PhD) involving research in the subject area of Pharmacology, with a Primary Supervisor from the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology or the School of Pharmacy.

For the avoidance of doubt, the agreed or proposed research activity that applicants will undertake in their anticipated year of tenure must be in the subject area of Pharmacology.

Application Process

Applications for this award should be submitted to Student Administration (Scholarships) at the University of Otago by the specified closing date.

Every applicant must submit:

- a completed application form
- a one-page cover letter outlining:
 - why they wish to complete a postgraduate qualification
 - the proposed project or area of research they are planning to undertake
 - what (specifically) interests them about their proposed project or area of research
 - any prior research experience they may have, and
 - how they think this award will help them develop their goals.
- an academic reference letter from the applicant's (proposed) research supervisor confirming their agreement to supervise the applicant's research project.

Students entering programmes such as BBiomedSc(Hons) who have not been allocated a supervisor at the time of application are still eligible to apply. They should write in the application form about the project they are hoping to undertake, and name possible supervisors.

Selection Process

The Selection Panel for this award shall include the following members (or their nominees): the Head of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, the Dean of the School of Pharmacy, the Director, Development and Alumni Relations, and the Manager, Postgraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Awards.

The following factors shall be considered in selecting a recipient (or recipients):

- The applicant's previous academic performance.
- The applicant's motivation and/or previous experience in research.
- The applicant's potential for success in independent research.

The Selection Panel may require an interview with short-listed applicants for this award.

Financial

- The value of the scholarship (per recipient) is set at \$1000 above that of other comparable University of Otago Honours awards (e.g. Elizabeth Jean Trotter 400-level Scholarship in Biomedical Sciences, James Hodge Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Scholarships in Medical and Health Sciences).
- The scholarship funds shall be paid as a monthly stipend distributed evenly across the academic year.
- More than one scholarship may be awarded in any year, funds permitting.
- The Selection Panel shall determine the number and value of scholarships available each year.

Tenure

- The scholarship will be held for up to one year while the candidate is enrolled in their postgraduate programme (ideally their first year of postgraduate enrolment at the University of Otago).
- The scholarship must be taken up in the year for which it is awarded (i.e. cannot be deferred).
- The scholarship may be held concurrently with other awards, subject to approval by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Health Sciences.

Other Requirements

- Award of the scholarship is dependent on the recipient being admitted to the University of Otago.
- The recipient will prepare a brief report for the Donor's family at the conclusion of the period of tenure, sent via the Stewardship Officer DARO.
- The University of Otago reserves the right to use the names, photographs, and details of successful applicants for advertising and publicity. The award holders must agree to be reasonably available to participate in interviews and promotional activities if requested by the University of Otago.
- Research carried out during the tenure of an award must conform to the codes of ethical conduct at the University of Otago and must have the approval of the appropriate ethics committee(s).
- Any publication resulting from work done during the tenure of an award shall include acknowledgment of support provided by the Fastier Pharmacology Research Fund.