



Cathy Pelly Scholarship

Established in 2025 by the University of Otago, with generous funding from the Cathy Pelly Memorial Trust. The Trust was established in 1985 to commemorate the short but extraordinary life of Cathy Pelly, a rebellious and remarkable young New Zealand woman with high ideals and a passion for social justice, who tragically drowned in 1984 in the River Dart in Devon, England, while still a schoolgirl. In her honour, the Trust distributes grants to organisations and individuals working for social change in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and some South Pacific nations. The purpose of this award is to provide financial support each year to one fifth-year medical student at the University of Otago. The award is open to New Zealand citizens, residence class visa holders, and citizens of Pacific Island nations.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or Residence Class Visa Holder, or a citizen of a Pacific Island nation
- enrolled (or planning to enrol) in the fifth year of the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) degree at one of the University of Otago's medical campuses in Dunedin, Christchurch or Wellington.

Application Process

Every application for the scholarship must 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 short statement (no more than one page) briefly outlining:
 - i. the applicant's personal motivations for studying medicine, and their preferred medical specialisation(s) and career goals, and
 - ii. the applicant's involvement in any extra-curricular or community activities, in particular any volunteering or leadership roles in the community
- an academic reference letter, and
- an academic transcript for any previous tertiary study undertaken at a different institution.

Selection Process

The Selection Panel will consist of the following members (or their nominees): one member appointed by the Head of the Faculty of Medicine; an Associate Dean Medical Education from the Faculty of Medicine (on a rotating basis or as available); an Associate Dean Pacific from the Faculty of Medicine (on a rotating basis or as available); the Director, Development and Alumni Relations; and the Manager, Postgraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Awards.

In addition to the University of Otago Pacific Strategic Framework 2022–2030, the following factors shall be considered by the Panel when selecting the scholarship recipient:

- The applicant's academic ability and potential.
- The applicant's medical, vocational or other personal ambitions.
- The applicant's involvement in extra-curricular or community activities, particularly any volunteering or leadership roles in the community.

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

Financial

- The total value of the scholarship (per recipient) is \$3,000.
- The scholarship will be paid in two equal instalments, one at the start of each semester.
- There will normally be only one scholarship awarded each year.
- Any variation to the number or value of scholarships available each year will be at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

Tenure

- The scholarship shall be held with full-time tenure.
- The scholarship must be taken up within one year of being awarded.
- The scholarship may be held concurrently with any other University of Otago scholarship or any external scholarship where its regulations also allow co-tenure.

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 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.