



University of Otago Academic General Practitioner Registrar PhD Scholarship

Established in 2013 by the Faculty of Medicine, now the Otago Medical School, the University of Otago Academic General Practitioner Registrar PhD Scholarship was created to support the sustainability and development of the Primary Health Care and General Practice academic discipline. The scholarship aims to help establish research capability among a new generation of General Practitioners by supporting the achievement of a Doctoral degree (PhD) at the University of Otago as well as vocational registration as a Fellow of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP).

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder;
- hold a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees (MBChB) or an equivalent medical degree;
- demonstrate a formal commitment to a General Practice career by having successfully completed either (i) the General Practice Education Programme first year (GPEP1) with an above average pass in the Primary Membership Examination (PRIMEX) or (ii) a RNZCGP Fellowship;
- have successfully completed either the 'Health Sciences Research Methods' paper (HASX417) or the 'Research Methods in General Practice' paper (GENX821), or an alternative 30 point postgraduate research methods paper with a minimum B+ grade;
- demonstrate proof of potential academic research ability through (i) successful completion of a research Master's degree, or (ii) appropriate and equivalent prior research experience;
- be enrolled or intending to enrol for a PhD through one of the following Departments:
 - Department of Public Health & General Practice, University of Otago, Christchurch;
 - Department of General Practice & Rural Health, Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago;
 - Department of Primary Health Care & General Practice, University of Otago, Wellington.

Application Process

Every application for the scholarship must be submitted to Student Administration (Scholarships) by 15 September. The scholarship will only be awarded to one recipient at a time and so will only be offered in such years as it is available.

Every applicant must submit:

- a certified copy of their academic record;
- evidence of eligibility for enrolment in postgraduate study at PhD level;
- a short Curriculum Vitae including information on any current awards held;
- a statement (maximum two pages) outlining their intended area of study, potential supervisors, study time-frame and future plans;

- a statement of support from the proposed host department confirming their ability to host the student and their ability to provide or support supervision.

Selection Process

The selection panel, comprising three members of the University of Otago Primary Health Care & General Practice Board of Studies (one representative from each campus, normally the Heads of each General Practice Departments or their nominees from the Board of Studies for Primary Health Care), one of whom shall act as the Chair, and an Education Representative from the RNZCGP, shall consider the following factors in selecting the scholarship:

- the applicant's academic ability;
- the applicant's proposed programme of research;
- the applicant's career goals and plans;
- the applicant's personal qualities.

A representative from the University of Otago Medical School will also serve on the selection panel in an advisory capacity.

Shortlisted applicants will be required to attend an interview with the selection panel, either in person or by video-conference.

Financial

The scholarship provides a stipend of \$30,696 per year for full-time study or \$15,348 per year for part-time study plus a tuition fee waiver for the PhD thesis paper for the period of tenure.

Tenure

- The scholarship may be held with part-time or full-time tenure.
- The scholarship may be held for a maximum of three equivalent full-time years or five years of enrolment, whichever period is shorter. Upon submission of the thesis for examination, the scholarship shall cease.
- Continuation of the scholarship is dependent on satisfactory progress in the PhD. The scholarship holder must submit copies of all completed PhD progress reports to the Chair of the selection panel for each year the scholarship is held. The University reserves the right to terminate the scholarship if reports are not received or progress is deemed to be unsatisfactory.
- The scholarship may be held concurrently with other awards, provided current awards are declared in the application for this scholarship. Recipients of the scholarship will be required to seek approval from the University of Otago Primary Health Care & General Practice Board of Studies before applying for other awards during their scholarship tenure.

Other Requirements

The scholarship recipient's research is expected to produce publications for scientific journals and presentations for national and/or international scientific meeting(s). All publications and presentations arising from the work must acknowledge the scholarship.