



John M. Stewart Scholarship

Established in 2023 by the University of Otago in collaboration with the Alumni of the University of Otago in America (AUOA). Funded through a generous bequest from the estate of Dr John M Stewart, this scholarship supports undergraduate Health Sciences students who show academic aptitude, may be “first in family” attending university, and face financial challenges to complete their studies.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder
- enrolled (or planning to enrol) in their second, third, fourth or fifth year of undergraduate study towards a Health Sciences professional programme at the University of Otago.

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
- an academic reference letter
- a statement of financial position (maximum 500 words) written by the applicant
- a declaration of any other scholarships, awards or grants the applicant holds or has applied for
- a statement of intent about their proposed field of work following completion of their degree
- a copy of their academic transcript if not an Otago graduate.

Statements of financial position will not be used to disqualify any applicant. Their sole purpose is to ensure due consideration is given to hardship resulting from difficult socio-economic circumstances.

Selection Process

The selection panel shall include the following parties (or their nominees): up to two senior faculty members from the Division of Health Sciences nominated by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Health Sciences, one of whom the Pro-Vice-Chancellor will designate as chair; the Manager, Postgraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Awards; the Director, Development and Alumni Relations; and a member of the AUOA Board.

The following factor(s) shall be considered in selecting the successful applicant:

- academic merit and potential
- financial, cultural and family circumstances, including whether the applicant is “first in family” to enrol in tertiary study
- community or social outreach and engagement.

The selection panel may require an interview with short-listed applicants for the scholarship.

In the event that the selection panel considers two applications of substantially equal merit to be tied, AUOA, as the representative of the Donor, will make the final decision.

Financial

- The value of the scholarship will normally be the annual tuition fee payable by the successful applicant. The scholarship will provide a full tuition fee rebate.
- The number and value of scholarships available each year will be determined by 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.
- Recipients will receive the scholarship for up to five (5) years of approved study, subject to satisfactory academic progression through the programme for which the scholarship was awarded.
- The scholarship may be held concurrently with any other University of Otago 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.
- AUOA and the University of Otago reserve 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.
- Recipients will be encouraged by AUOA to consider meaningful and attainable ways in which they may contribute to the ongoing work and activities of the University of Otago after becoming alumni, regardless of where in the world they may end up living.