



The Marks' Ecology Award

Established in 2022 by the University of Otago Council from a generous donation by Sir Alan and Lady Patricia Mark, the Marks' Ecology Award was created to support promising University of Otago students undertaking Ecology research. The Marks' donation honours the original contribution to the Ecology Fund in 1966 by M.J and B.J Marples, former staff members of the Departments of Biochemistry and Zoology respectively, along with the other donors, alumni and friends who have continued to make contributions to the Ecology Fund.

Sir Alan and Lady Patricia Mark have both been esteemed members of the University of Otago community. Lady Patricia, who died in 2023, held numerous volunteer and board roles through the local community, and was recognised for this service with a Queen's Service Order award in 2002. Sir Alan, who survives his wife, is a revered academic, teacher and environmentalist, has been a staunch advocate for protecting Aotearoa New Zealand's precious environment for decades, and was a founding member of the Save Manapouri Campaign. His life's work has been acknowledged through numerous awards, culminating in his acceptance of the Distinguished Companion of the Order of Merit honour in 2009, thereby becoming a Knight Companion.

The Marks' Ecology Award is intended to help recipients attend workshops and conferences, meet field and lab work expenses, and fund visits to overseas research institutes.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder; and
- enrolled (or intending to enrol) fulltime in a Doctoral, Masters, Honours or Postgraduate Diploma in Science research programme in Botany, Ecology, Marine Science or Zoology. Enrolment in a Master's research programme includes students undertaking a coursework programme with a research component worth 40 points or more.

Application Process

Every application for the award must be submitted to Student Administration (Scholarships) by the specified closing date.

Every applicant must submit:

- a completed application form including a research abstract and tentative budget (with relevant quotes for travel, conference fees and other costs);
- a covering letter containing relevant information for the selection panel, including how the funded activities will benefit the programme of study;
- a curriculum vitae; and
- the names of two referees who may be contacted to comment on the applicant's suitability for the award.

Selection Process

The selection panel, consisting of the Director of the Ecology Programme (Chair), the Heads of Department of Zoology, Botany and Marine Science, the Director of Development and Alumni Relations, and the Manager,

Postgraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Awards, or their nominees, shall consider the following factors in granting the award:

- the applicant's stated reasons for applying for the award.
- the academic record of the applicant, with a particular focus on Ecology-related papers.
- any other University of Otago or public information available considered to be relevant to the selection panel.

Financial

- The award is valued at a maximum of \$4,000.
- The value of the award may be reviewed from time to time.

Tenure

- The award will normally be held with full-time tenure.
- The award must be taken up within one year of being awarded.
- The award may be held concurrently with any other scholarship.
- The University reserves the right to terminate the award if the requisite progress report (see Other Requirements below) is not received, or progress is deemed to be unsatisfactory.

Other Requirements

- The award holder must submit a report on the progress of their studies to Student Administration (Scholarships) by 1 December of the year they hold the award.
- 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.