



John Edwards Scholarship

Established in 2023 by the University of Otago, this scholarship is generously funded by Margaret Edwards, wife of the late Dr John Lewis Edwards ONZM (1940-2020). Dr Edwards was an associate professor in dentistry at the University of Otago, and a specialist and pioneer in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS), for which he was a tireless champion. Dr Edwards' contribution to the development of oral and maxillofacial surgery and to the School of Dentistry over many decades of service was immense.

The aim of this scholarship is to promote research in oral and maxillofacial surgery and related fields (e.g. OMF pathology and medicine) in New Zealand, and to encourage recipients to develop their knowledge and skills in this discipline. It is specifically targeted at undergraduate BDS honours students undertaking a dissertation or research project in the area of oral and maxillofacial surgery or related disciplines.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder
- enrolled (or intending to enrol) in a Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours (BDS(Hons)) degree
- engaged in (or intending to undertake) a BDS(Hons) dissertation or research project in an area applicable to oral and maxillofacial surgery, or related topics in oral medicine or pathology.

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 research proposal (for prior approval by the Donor), and
- a copy of their academic transcript if not an Otago graduate.

Selection Process

The selection panel will consist of the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry (as chair), the Director, Development and Alumni Relations, and the Manager, Postgraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Awards (or their nominees), and the Donor or other representative of the Edwards family.

The following factors shall be considered in awarding the scholarship:

- the applicant's academic record
- the relevance of the proposed dissertation or research project to oral and maxillofacial surgery or related disciplines.

The panel may require an interview with short-listed applicants to determine award of the scholarship.

Financial

- The total value of the scholarship is \$4,500 (subject to available funds). The scholarship will be payable in equal instalments at the start of each semester of tenure, according to the recipient's individual enrolment (i.e. full-time or part-time).
- No student may be awarded the scholarship more than once.
- The number of scholarships available each year will be determined by the selection panel.

Tenure

- The scholarship may be held with full-time or part-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 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 must include an acknowledgment of the Donor and scholarship in their dissertation or other written research.
- 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.