



Jan Riddell Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2024 by the University of Otago in collaboration with David Riddell, this award commemorates the life and work of David's wife, the late Jan Riddell QSM. Jan was appointed the Queen's Service Medal in 2004 for public service, and throughout her life was dedicated to protecting the natural environment, with a focus on water quality and quantity issues. As well as being a sheep farmer, Jan had an extensive career in the conservation sector, including roles with the Southland Conservation Board, the NZ Conservation Authority, the Forest Hill Foundation Trust, the Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust, Environment Southland, and the Southland Fish & Game Council. She was also Chair of the NZ Nature Heritage Fund, and was heavily involved with the Waiau River Working Party, which she chaired for 25 years. Jan embraced each and every role with characteristic verve, vision, and dedication. Both David and Jan graduated from the University of Otago.

The Jan Riddell Memorial Scholarship provides generous support to a student undertaking postgraduate study with a focus on hydrology. Valued at \$8,000, the scholarship is intended to help meet tuition and research-related costs, such as lab supplies and fieldwork expenses.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder;
- enrolled in or planning to undertake any of the following, in the proposed year of tenure:
 - the first year of a Master's degree with a primary focus on hydrology;
 - a Postgraduate Diploma or Honours degree with a research project primarily focussed on hydrology, or leading to specialisation in hydrology.

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 declaration of any other scholarships, awards or grants the applicant holds or has applied for;
- a statement of intent about their professional or vocational aspirations following completion of their postgraduate study in hydrology, including likely pathways to achieving those goals;
- a summary of any community or social outreach and engagement, including any current or recent volunteer service, or involvement in sporting or other extra-curricular activities;
- (if applicable) a brief description of any cultural, family or personal considerations that may adversely affect the applicant's ability to succeed in their studies; and
- a copy of their academic transcript if not an Otago graduate.

Applicants may also provide a written statement of financial position (maximum 500 words) if there are particular financial stresses or challenges they are faced with that they wish to highlight. Such statements will not be used to disqualify an applicant. Their sole purpose is to ensure due consideration is given to hardship resulting from difficult personal or socio-economic circumstances.

Selection Process

A selection panel to award the scholarship shall include the following (or their nominees): one senior faculty member from the School of Geography, nominated by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Humanities, who will act as chair; one senior faculty member from the School of Surveying, Department of Geology or Department of Marine Science, nominated by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Sciences; the Director, Development and Alumni Relations; and the Manager, Postgraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Awards.

The panel shall consider the following factors when awarding the scholarship:

- academic performance and potential;
- financial, cultural or personal/family circumstances that may affect an applicant's ability to study;
- community or social outreach and engagement, including any current or recent volunteer service;
- involvement in sporting or other extra-curricular activities; and
- the applicant's overall career goals and aspirations, and steps they might take to reach them.

The panel shall also have regard to the University's Equity and Diversity Policy when assessing applications.

The panel may require an interview with short-listed applicants.

Financial

- The total value of the scholarship is \$8,000, which shall be applied to offset tuition fees and/or research-related costs such as lab supplies and fieldwork expenses.
- One scholarship will normally be awarded each year, funds permitting.
- The panel may vary the number and value of scholarships awarded each year (to a minimum value of \$3,000 per award).
- The selection panel may decide not to award the scholarship in any year there are deemed to be no applications of sufficient merit.

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 only be awarded once to any individual applicant.
- 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 for the intended programme of study.
- 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.