



University of Otago | Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka Global Master's Scholarship

Established in 2026, this award is intended to support international students from designated countries planning to study one of a selection of specified taught Master's degrees at the University of Otago Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka. The scholarship provides a generous tuition fee subsidy, and is open to eligible international students who meet the entry requirements for their chosen taught Master's programme and hold a valid passport from a designated country.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be an international student with a valid passport from a country specified in the [University of Otago webpage for this award](#)
- meet the entry requirements for an eligible taught Master's degree specified in the [University of Otago webpage for this award](#)
- normally have achieved a grade average equivalent to at least a New Zealand B in their qualifying degree, and
- intend to study on campus for the entirety of their chosen Master's programme.

International students who are currently completing (or have already completed) a bachelor's degree at the University of Otago, and otherwise meet the eligibility criteria, may also apply for this award.

Students already sponsored by the New Zealand government or their home government (whereby the University of Otago has a direct arrangement for the payment of fees) will not be eligible for this award.

Application Process

A scholarship application is not required. Students will be assessed for a scholarship on application for their programme, and recipients will be advised of the award of a scholarship in their Offer of Place.

The selection of scholarship recipients is entirely at the discretion of the University of Otago.

Selection Process

The following factors shall be considered in selecting successful applicants:

- academic achievement, with a grade average equivalent to at least a New Zealand B in the applicant's qualifying degree normally expected
- whether the applicant is an international student who holds a valid passport from a nominated country listed on the [University of Otago webpage for this award](#)
- whether the applicant has met the entry requirements for an eligible taught Master's programme listed on the [University of Otago webpage for this award](#)
- the applicant's declared commitment to study on campus for the entirety of their degree.

Financial

- The total value of the scholarship (per recipient) will be \$15,000, regardless of the overall length of the recipient's Master's programme.

- The scholarship will provide a partial rebate of the full-time tuition fees charged for the first 12 months of the recipient's enrolment, capped at the full value of the scholarship (\$15,000).
- For students commencing study in Semester 2 (July), half the scholarship funds (\$7,500) will be released as a credit towards their Semester 2 tuition fees, with the other half being released in Semester 1 (February) of the following year. For scholarship payment purposes, students commencing their Master's study in November will be treated as commencing in February of the following year.
- In order for scholarship funds to be released, recipients must have actively accepted their programme offer **AND** be enrolled in and studying the degree stated in their offer of place.

Tenure

- This scholarship shall be held with full-time tenure.
- Tenure of the scholarship will be concurrent with the first 12 months of the programme of study, regardless of its overall duration.
- The scholarship must be taken up within one year of being awarded.
- No student may be granted this scholarship more than once.
- Unless otherwise expressly permitted, this scholarship may not be held at the same time as another University of Otago scholarship. When offered more than one University of Otago scholarship, the recipient will normally be granted the scholarship of the highest value.

Other Requirements

- Award of this scholarship is dependent on the recipient being admitted to the University of Otago.
- Recipients shall agree to reasonable requests from the University of Otago to represent the University and the scholarship.
- 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.
- If a student's residency status changes from international to domestic at any stage during the tenure of the scholarship, the University may suspend or terminate the scholarship and require the return of funds either in part or in full.
- However, consideration may be given, when appropriate, to changing the scholarship to another award if the student no longer meets the eligibility requirements of this scholarship.
- This scholarship will not appear on the recipient's University of Otago academic transcript.
- Upon the termination of a student's enrolment (for any reason), withdrawal, or stopping study, entitlement to scholarship funding shall be cancelled. In such circumstances, the University may also require repayment (in part or full) of any scholarship payments already made.