

Isaac Conservation Scholarship

Established in 2022 by the University of Otago through generous support from The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust, the Isaac Conservation Scholarship supports postgraduate study that is ecological in nature with a focus on the preservation, amelioration or deeper knowledge of flora and fauna species in their native or adopted habitats as it relates to healthy biodiversity in Aotearoa-New Zealand.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand residence class visa holder;
- studying fulltime towards a Master's degree (by coursework or thesis); and
- currently enrolled fulltime or eligible to register by the commencement of the next academic semester in the year of the award. The scholarship will lapse if the candidate is not registered for a postgraduate degree by this date, unless it is established under special provision.

Applicants must also have achieved a Grade Point Average of 7 (or higher) at 300-level or 400-level in their most recent year of study.

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 one-page research proposal for their intended thesis, which focuses on conservation and/or environmental applications;
- a completed University of Otago Isaac Conservation Scholarship application form;
- a copy of their academic transcript if not an Otago graduate; and
- an academic reference letter.

Selection Process

The Selection Panel will comprise of the Director of the Ecology programme, a representative of The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust, and the Director, Development and Alumni or their nominees.

The following factors shall be considered in selecting the scholarship recipient:

- the academic merit of the candidate, with a minimum GPA of 7 required in their most recent year of study at 300- or 400-level;
- current involvement in conservation and environmental issues in New Zealand; and
- the suitability of the candidate, including character, ability to pursue research and academic attainment.

The Selection Panel may require an interview with short-listed applicants for the scholarship.

Financial

- The scholarship is valued at \$25,000 per annum.
- The annual sum of the scholarship shall be paid in monthly instalments during the enrolled period of the recipient's programme.

Tenure

- The recipient shall be known as the Isaac Conservation Scholar.
- The scholarship must be held with full-time tenure at the University of Otago.
- The tenure of the scholarship for a Master's candidate is a maximum of two years.
- The scholarship must be taken up at the commencement of the next academic semester immediately following the award.
- Once the scholarship has commenced, the scholarship sponsor, at his or her discretion, may grant a temporary suspension of the scholarship, without emolument, for up to one year having taken into account the scholar's circumstances and the progress of the study.
- The scholarship may be held concurrently with the fees-only award of a University of Otago Master's Research Scholarship for the thesis year. Co-tenure with any other scholarship, bursary or award is not permitted.
- There can only be one holder of this scholarship at any time.

Other Requirements

- Award of the scholarship is dependent on the recipient being admitted to the University of Otago.
- The University of Otago reserves the right to use the names, photographs, and details of successful applicants for advertising and publicity.
- The University of Otago will provide The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Research Trust with this content for use/repurpose in their own advertising and publicity.
- The award holder must agree to be reasonably available to participate in interviews and promotional activities if requested by the University of Otago.
- The successful recipient will provide brief quarterly updates to The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Research Trust, through the University of Otago's Development and Alumni Relations Office.
- The successful recipient will be required to make available a copy of the completed research document (thesis), as outlined in their one-page application, to The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust for their retention. The thesis remains the intellectual property of the scholarship recipient.