

Mark Parker Memorial Trust Mark Parker Memorial Scholarship Information and Application



Mark Morton Parker (1975-2002)

Mark was born in Timaru and was educated at Timaru Boys' High School. He attended Otago University and was resident at University College in 1994. He graduated Bachelor of Commerce, with a double major in Marketing and Management in 1998.

During his time at University College, Mark met many young people, and developed close friendships that played a huge part in his life from then on. He studied, flatted, played sport, travelled and lived with many of those friends. Mark travelled extensively, worked in London, and played cricket in the Hampshire Leagues. He was entering the years when one begins to enjoy the results of all that learning and experience. Mark was increasingly showing leadership skills which were having a significant impact on every environment he was in.

Mark was returning to New Zealand to play first class cricket for Wellington, when he was tragically killed in the Bali Bombings, in Kuta, October 2002.

The Scholarship

The Mark Parker Memorial Trust was formed to provide scholarships to further the education of young New Zealanders who have demonstrated potential to enhance the quality of New Zealand society, through leadership in areas of interest including but not limited to Business, Sport, Art, Music, Education, Law, Accounting, Politics or Community Services.

The Mark Parker Memorial Trust and University College are pleased to be able to offer this scholarship to assist past residents of University College with further academic study while at the University of Otago.

Value

The scholarship has a value of \$5,000 per year.

Tenure

The scholarship is for one year, but a scholarship holder is able to re-apply and in exceptional circumstances the scholarship may be awarded for a second year. Each scholarship must be used in the year it is awarded.

"The Mark Parker scholarship gave me a significant boost in my self-belief, and represented both the recognition and support I needed to press forward in my academic and career ambitions."
- McGregor Fea

"The Mark Parker scholarship has allowed me to continue education in my areas of interest and given me the confidence to pursue further leadership opportunities."
- Heena Desai

Applicants must:

Be a New Zealand citizen, between the age of 18 and 24 years at the time of application.

Have resided at University College for one complete academic year, whilst attending Otago University.

Have achieved creditable success with undergraduate academic studies.

Have shown leadership qualities, personal integrity, strength of character, and respect for fellow peers. These character traits will be important criteria by which applicants are selected.

Come with the recommendation of the University College Management, i.e. the applicant has integrated well into the life of the College, participated in a range of activities and has shown strength with social interactions and resident welfare.

Show potential, and proven achievement in an area of interest such as but not limited to:
Business, Sport, Art, Music, Education, Law, Accounting, Politics, or Community Services.

NOTE: Applicants will not be means tested, or not be qualified or disqualified on the grounds of race, religion, gender, income, or sexual orientation.

Requirements

The Scholarship holder must:

Agree to act as a role model for the University College Community.

Speak at a University College function if required.

Represent the Mark Parker Memorial Trust as requested by the Trustees.

Submit a report and or a supporting video on the progress of their studies within 12 months of the date of receipt of the scholarship.

**The video may be used for promotional purposes by the trustees of the scholarship*

Refund the scholarship if the full academic year is not completed.

“Receiving the award allowed me to focus directly on my master’s research leading to publication of my work and presentations at conferences in NZ and Japan.”
- Antony Stadnyk

“The scholarship has had a positive impact on my life and has opened up many opportunities during my last two years at the University of Otago” - Jack Power

Application Requirements

The Applicant must submit:

A complete application form

Two supporting statements from people who are not family. (E.g. employer or volunteering organization.)

A copy of their academic transcript

A written statement of no less than 500 words. The applicant can also submit a video of no more than 10mins in length to support the application which should include:

The qualities, achievements and interests making them a worthy recipient of the scholarship

How they have shown leadership qualities, personal integrity, strength of character and respect for their fellow peers.

Application Process

The process is as follows:

Application forms are available from the College office or by emailing unicol@otago.ac.nz. Applications are to be sent to University College by 4pm Wednesday, 10th September 2025.

A shortlist of possible recipients will be selected by University College's Senior Management Team.

Students shortlisted will be interviewed by a selection panel including two representatives from the Mark Parker Memorial Trust, at least one representative from University College management, and where possible a past recipient of the scholarship.

Interviews for those shortlisted will be held on Sunday, 21st September 2025
The winner will be contacted on Tuesday 23rd September 2025.

The Mark Parker Scholar for the year will be publicly announced at the formal dinner on 19th of October 2025.

*"I was so fortunate to have been the 2011 recipient, which has been a great kick-start to help achieve some of my life goals in my twenties."
- Jess Fountain*

"I truly value being a recipient of the Mark Parker Scholarship, not only for the financial assistance and the opportunities it presented, but also because understanding the values he lived by, has inspired me to make the most of each phase of my life so far." - Antoinette Searle

