Bamforth Postgraduate Scholarship

Established by the University of Otago in 1984 for the purpose of encouraging research in the history, literature and culture of Scotland, and the influence of Scottish migration to New Zealand and elsewhere. The award was established with funding generously provided by Dr W G C Paterson, and dedicated to the memory of his wife, Emily Bamforth, "a cultured lady and an amateur historian".

This award was administered as a University of Otago Postgraduate Research Scholarship until 2026, and was available to (first-time) PhD and Master's students undertaking Scotland or Scottish themed research. In 2026, the award was removed from the Schedule of Regulations for Postgraduate Research Scholarships, and opened up to a wider range of postgraduate students (excluding PhD), to encourage more postgraduate research with a Scottish focus.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder
- enrolled at the University of Otago in (or accepted for admission to):
    - a research Master's degree
    - an MA(Coursework) or Honours degree, or
    - a Postgraduate Diploma, and
- undertaking a thesis, dissertation or other research project with a primary focus on
  (i) the history, literature or culture of Scotland, or
  (ii) the influence of Scottish migration to New Zealand or other parts of the world.

Provided an applicant meets these criteria they may be enrolled in any department and programme at the University of Otago.

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 outline or description of their (proposed) research project
- an academic reference letter (e.g. from a research supervisor or course coordinator), and
- academic transcripts for any study undertaken at other tertiary institutions.

Selection Process

The selection panel shall consist of the following members (or their nominees): the Stuart Chair in Scottish Studies; the Head of History; the Head of English and Linguistics; the Director, Development and Alumni Relations; and the Manager, Postgraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Awards.

The following factors shall be considered by the selection panel when assessing applications:

- Academic merit or promise.
- The recommendations of the applicant's academic referee.

- The proposed topic of research should be in accord with the intentions of the donors, i.e. centred on a theme (or themes) concerning the history, literature, or culture of Scotland, or the influence of Scottish migration to New Zealand or other parts of the world.

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

Financial

- The scholarship will normally be awarded annually to either:
    - (i) one research Master's student, or
    - (ii) (up to) three students enrolled in an MA(Coursework) or Honours degree or a Postgraduate Diploma.
- The total value of the scholarship (per recipient) will normally be
    - (i) for research Master's students:
        a. the standard emolument paid for a University of Otago research Master's scholarship, paid in monthly instalments, plus
        b. a tuition fee waiver for one year of Master's study
    - (ii) for MA(Coursework), Honours or PGDip students, $10,000, paid in monthly instalments.
- The number and value of scholarships each year will be determined by the selection panel.

Tenure

- Tenure of this award (for all recipients) will be one year of full-time study.
- The scholarship may be held with full-time or part-time tenure, with tuition fees and emolument payments prorated accordingly.
- 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 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.