Kerry Thorn Excellence in Philosophy Scholarship

Established in 2026 by the University of Otago from funds donated to the University by Sir John and Lady Constance Thorn in memory of their son, Kerry Thorn, whose studies in the Department of Philosophy were cut short by his tragic death in 1967. Dunedin-born Sir John Thorn (1911-2008) was a businessman and prominent local body politician in Port Chalmers, and served as Mayor of Port Chalmers for a remarkable 33 years (1956-89). He was knighted in 1984 in recognition of half a century of service to his community.

This scholarship will be awarded annually by the University Council to (up to) two students with a high standard of achievement in Philosophy at 300-level who have been admitted to the Philosophy Honours programme. The recipient of the Kerry Thorn Memorial Scholarship in Philosophy, a named University of Otago Prestige Scholarship, may also qualify for this award, and may hold both concurrently.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder
- have successfully completed the 300-level subject requirements for a major in Philosophy, and
- be enrolled in (or admitted to) the University of Otago's Philosophy Honours programme.

Application Process

Every application for this scholarship should be submitted to Student Administration (Scholarships) at the University of Otago by the specified closing date, and include the following:

- a completed application form
- an academic reference letter, and
- a separate academic transcript for any study undertaken at another tertiary institution.

In the only exception, the recipient of the annual Kerry Thorn Memorial Scholarship in Philosophy, a Named University of Otago Prestige Scholarship, will automatically be considered for this award if they have been accepted into the Philosophy Honours programme, and would therefore not be required to follow these application procedures.

Selection Process

The Selection Panel will consist of the following members (or their nominees): one member nominated by the Associate Dean Academic for Humanities; one member nominated by the Head of Programme for Philosophy; the Director, Development and Alumni Relations; and the Manager, Postgraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Awards.

The following factors shall be considered in awarding the scholarship:

- the degree of academic excellence shown in the applicant's 300-level papers in Philosophy
- the degree of academic excellence shown in all other tertiary study.

The Selection Panel may require an interview with short-listed applicants for this award.

Financial

- The total value of this scholarship (per recipient) is $2,000.
- The scholarship may be awarded to up to two students each year, funds permitting.
- The scholarship funds will be paid out in two lump sums, at the start of each semester.
- Any variation to the number and value of scholarships available each year will be a matter for determination by the selection panel.

Tenure

- Tenure of this scholarship will be one year (two semesters) of full-time study only.
- The scholarship must be taken up within one year of being awarded.
- The scholarship may be awarded in addition to the grant of a University of Otago Prestige Scholarship or University of Otago Scholarship, and be held for the same period of tenure.
- The scholarship may also be held concurrently with any other University of Otago scholarship where its regulations also allow co-tenure.

Other Requirements

- Award of this scholarship is dependent on the recipient being admitted to the University of Otago in the anticipated year of tenure.
- 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.