



THE CAROLINE PLUMMER FELLOWSHIP IN COMMUNITY DANCE 2026

New Zealand's international premier community dance residency

The Caroline Plummer Memorial Trust and the University of Otago are pleased to offer this Fellowship to promote, encourage and enable community dance practice through research, teaching and community service. The Fellowship was established in 2004.

Background

Caroline Plummer (1978-2003) was a student at the University of Otago. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a Diploma for Graduates in Dance, and was awarded the University of Otago Prestige Scholarship in Arts. The Caroline Plummer Fellowship in Community Dance was established to commemorate and continue Caroline's passion and vision for dance in the community.

Caroline believed in the power of dance in respect to healing, education, cultural understanding and artistic expression. Her holistic view of dance, and self, developed from her life experiences and her passion for dance. As Caroline wrote, *"When we dance it is one of those rare times that our mind, body, emotions and also our spirits are working as one – consciously directed towards the same intention."*

The Fellowship aims to remember and extend Caroline's belief that dance provides a unique means of celebrating and improving humanity. In Caroline's words, *"I can only hope dance can be utilised in more and more positive ways to help us embrace the diversity and difference that makes our world so fantastic."*

Before she died, Caroline discussed the possibility of the University establishing a prize or scholarship in her memory. She encapsulated the principles she hoped would underpin the scholarship: *"Accessibility (ability/age/social status) community (binding together force/agent for change/peace) artistic sharing (sharing our talents) inclusivity, cooperation."*

And summarised her vision: *"I wish this prize to enable anyone with a talent and passion for dance, to further develop their dance work; that it might inspire education, healing, and peace in our community. Accessibility to dance for all should be a guiding aim, pursued with the sense of fellowship and compassion central to this prize. Above and beyond an obvious passion and commitment to dance, this scholarship should be open to anyone in the university with a desire to bridge the gaps between such disciplines as dance, health and anthropology."*

Refer to these websites for more information about Caroline Plummer, the [Caroline Plummer Memorial Trust](#), and the [Caroline Plummer Fellowship in Community Dance](#).

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

1. Applications are invited worldwide from community dance practitioners, teachers and researchers.
2. Applicants need not possess a university degree or diploma, any other professional qualification, or belong to any association or organisation of dancers.
3. The successful applicant will be known as the Caroline Plummer Dance Fellow (the Fellow).
4. The tenure is for a consecutive six-month period. In exceptional circumstances, it may be awarded for a shorter or longer period with the approval of the Caroline Plummer Fellowship Advisory Board (the Advisory Board). The Fellowship will normally commence between 1 February and 1 March each year.
5. Previous recipients of the award are eligible to reapply in following years, but shall not be the recipient of the award more than twice.
6. The Fellowship may be held concurrently with, or following, any other award, grant or financial assistance, with the approval of the Advisory Board.
7. The University Council may terminate the Fellowship if, in its opinion, the Fellow brings the University into disrepute or neglects to fulfil the conditions of the award.

CAROLINE PLUMMER FELLOWSHIP IN COMMUNITY DANCE RECIPIENTS

Since the Fellowship was established, the following awards have been made:

2005	Petra Kuppers
2006	Georgina White
2007	Katrina Rank
2008	Barbara Snook
2009	Sean Curham
2010	Suzanne Cowan
2011	Lyne Pringle
2012	<i>No appointment</i>
2013	Hahna Briggs
2014	Louise Potiki Bryant
2015	Uzoamaka Nwankpa
2016	Val Smith
2017	Caroline Sutton Clark
2018	Matthew Smith
2019	Antonio Ssebuuma
2020	Kristie Mortimer
2021	Lucy Marinkovich
2022	Michael Parmenter
2023	Daisy Sanders
2024	Marcela Giesche
2025	Carol Brown

FURTHER INFORMATION

Stipend and Project Costs

The stipend of the Fellowship will not be less than the minimum salary for a full-time University of Otago Lecturer over a six-month period. In 2026, the stipend available to the Fellow is NZ\$53,688.50 made up of NZ\$48,688.50 salary and NZ\$5,000 project costs. The Advisory Board may adjust the value of the Fellowship from time to time.

Travel and Relocation Expenses

The Fellowship Fund may provide travel or relocation expenses to Dunedin for the Fellow if deemed appropriate by the Advisory Board, and if funds are available.

Living Accommodation

The Fellowship does not provide extra funds, over and above the stipend, for accommodation.

Location of the Fellowship

The Fellow will be located at the Humanities Division at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand (the University). Office space, access to dance facilities, and collegial support will be provided. Access to the wider facilities of the University is also available. For more information see the [University of Otago website](#).

The Fellow will normally reside in or near Dunedin during the tenure of the Fellowship. It is understood that the project/activity undertaken by the Fellow may necessitate their involvement with community groups beyond the University and Dunedin. In this event, the Fellow's programme of activity will need to be presented to and approved by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Humanities.

Responsibilities and Objectives

The Fellow is required to:

- Work full-time at their community dance project during the tenure of the Fellowship.
- Support the research, teaching and curriculum development of community dance within the Dance programme at the School of Performing Arts provided such support does not impinge upon the completion of their dance project.
- Complete at least one public activity that furthers community dance practice and understanding nationally and/or internationally.
- Acknowledge the assistance of the Fellowship when publishing or presenting any work developed during their tenure.
- Agree to the use by the University of their name, photograph and details in advertising or publicity (current and future).
- Agree to reasonable requests from the University to participate in interviews and promotional activities.
- Submit a comprehensive report describing the project, its outcomes, and the value of the Fellowship to the University, no later than two months after completion of the Fellowship.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are New Zealand citizens given priority to the Fellowship?

The Caroline Plummer Fellowship is the University's only Fellowship offered to overseas applicants as well as to New Zealand citizens. We encourage overseas applicants. All applications are reviewed by our panel and priority is not given to New Zealand citizens.

Are all applicants informed of the outcome of their application?

Yes. If you are short-listed you will be notified by email, and we will let you know we will be contacting your referees. If you are not short-listed you will also be advised by email.

Can video clips be submitted via email?

We ask that video clips are made available online. Please upload it to a system such as YouTube (private access). Please check that the link is working and that the clip title is correctly stated in your application.

Where can I get dancers from if successful?

Dancers can come from a variety of areas, such as students, the local community, or a particular dance organisation. If you wish to involve a particular organisation it is wise to contact them beforehand rather than assume they will want to be involved.

Can a cover letter be included?

You can include a cover letter, however, it is not necessary.

How many applications are generally received each year?

Numbers vary each year, but on average we receive 15-17 applications.

Is preference given to a particular group, for example, women?

No preferential status is given to any group.

When does the Fellowship Tenure take place?

The Caroline Plummer tenure is for six months, usually from 1 March to 31 August, however, there is a small amount of flexibility with these dates.

What skills should my written Dance Project show?

The Dance Project should show your literary skills, whether you are a clear thinker, and that you are able to describe in writing, clearly and concisely, what you want to do and how you are going to do it.

What should my video clip show?

Your video clip should give a good indication of your communication skills, and your ability to talk about your project with confidence.

Does my CV need to be entirely related to dance?

Your CV doesn't need to be entirely related to dance. Your overall professional experience is also taken into consideration.