



Alexander Leith Bagpipe and Drum Scholarship

Established by a descendant of Alexander and Margery Leith in 2008 to assist students who have demonstrated an outstanding level of merit in solo performance in either Scottish piping or drumming and all-round academic ability, to attend the University of Otago.

Alexander Leith was born in Sutherlandshire Scotland in 1809. Margery and Alexander with their son William arrived in Dunedin on the “Mary” on 11 April 1849. The Leith family developed two farms on the Taieri Plain then walked their stock to Southland in 1861 and settled at Oteramika. Alexander Leith died suddenly on 18 July 1863.

Eligibility

Applications are open to intending students who are planning to enrol for study in the first year of a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Otago in the year following the closing date, specialising in a music performance paper in Scottish piping or drumming. An additional form for music performance should be submitted to the Music Department.

Application Process

Every applicant must:

- ♦ submit an application on the prescribed form to the University of Otago Scholarship Office no later than 1 December of the year preceding that of intended tenure of the scholarship.
- ♦ arrange for a reference from their music tutor regarding the applicant’s potential (on the prescribed form) to be forwarded to the Scholarships Office no later than 1 December.
- ♦ outline (on the application form) their all-round academic ability, and other interests outside of music, including evidence of community involvement and/or ability to engage in the community.
- ♦ submit with their application form a statement of up to 500 words outlining why they have chosen their programme of study at the University of Otago and what they see as the benefits of this university study.
- ♦ submit their NCEA Level 2 Results Notice or equivalent assessment documentation with their application form, or evidence of being 20 years or over.

Applicants may be required to attend an interview either in person or by teleconference, and the University will meet reasonable expenses associated with participation.

Selection Process

The Selection Committee shall include the Head, Department of Music; a person suitably qualified in either Scottish piping or drumming to be nominated by the Head of Department; a representative or nominee of the descendants of the Alexander and Margery Leith family as nominated by the donor or their executors. The panel shall consider the following factors in recommending the award of the scholarships:

- ♦ demonstrated musical ability in Scottish piping or drumming
- ♦ all-round academic ability
- ♦ evidence of engagement or potential to engage with the community

Financial Arrangements

The scholarship is payable towards the tuition fees per semester, for the first year of study at the University of Otago.

Payments will be made on receipt of invoice directly to the Fees Office of the University of Otago prior to semester commencement. Payment for the second semester will be subject to a brief statement from the performance tutor that the student has achieved a satisfactory grade to continue study.

Tenure

- ♦ The scholarship will be for the first year of study for a Bachelor of Music at the University of Otago.
- ♦ Each scholarship must be taken up in the year following the closing date.
- ♦ The Alexander Leith Bagpipe and Drum Scholarship may be held concurrently with other awards. The University of Otago is not obliged to award this scholarship if in any year there is no candidate of sufficient merit, or if a suitable tutor is unavailable. In such circumstances the funds may, at the discretion of the Panel, be given to the present incumbent.

Other Requirements

Each Scholarship recipient must:

- ♦ obtain admission to the University.
- ♦ Be consulted about the appropriate use by the University of his or her name, image and biographical details in advertising and publicity, for an agreed period of time.
- ♦ accede to reasonable requests from the University to participate in interviews and promotional activities.

Notes - The current value of the scholarship is \$3000.00 with a cost of living review every three years.