



The Salvation Army Marie Fitness Endowment Scholarship

The Scholarship was established in 2014 and is funded by the Marie Fitness endowment through the Salvation Army. The main purpose of the Scholarship is to support young people with demonstrated financial hardship and who are from an under-privileged background to study Dentistry, Medicine or Pharmacy at the University of Otago.

This scholarship is also open to eligible students from the University of Auckland, who should apply through the University of Auckland's Scholarships Office.

Eligibility

Applications are open to intending students who:

- ♦ Are New Zealand citizens or permanent residents; and
- ♦ Were under the age of 21 years when commencing university study; and
- ♦ Are intending to enrol at the University of Otago in the year following the closing date for full-time study in one of the following programmes:
 - Health Sciences First Year (where a clear indication is evident of intention and potential ability to gain admission to the BDS, MB ChB or BPharm in the subsequent year); or
 - Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)*; or
 - Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB)*; or
 - Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm)*; and
- ♦ Demonstrate financial hardship and come from a background of childhood under-privilege.

*Applications will be accepted from students in any year of study towards one of these qualifications.

Application Process

Every applicant must:

- ♦ Submit an application to the University of Otago Doctoral and Scholarships Office by 1 November in the year preceding commencement of the award;
- ♦ Provide evidence of eligibility for a Studylink Student Allowance (if available at the time of application);
- ♦ Provide a personal statement/essay detailing their childhood under-privilege and current financial hardship, as well as their reasons for wanting to be a health professional and their future study/career plans;
- ♦ Provide the contact details of a referee who can attest to the details provided in the applicant's personal statement;
- ♦ Attach to the application a copy of their most recent results in NCEA or Foundation Year or equivalent (for applicants applying prior to commencing university study);
- ♦ Attach to the application a copy of their academic transcript (for applicants who are currently enrolled in a university degree-level programme).

Selection Process

The shortlisting of applicants will be undertaken by a Shortlisting Committee, comprising the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Health Sciences (or nominee), in the chair; the Health Sciences Admissions Manager (or nominee); and the Scholarships Manager, Graduate Research School (or nominee), who shall consider the following factors in recommending the award of the scholarship:

- ♦ Academic ability;
- ♦ Financial hardship and childhood under-privilege (this will be determined by factors such as the decile rating of schools attended, family circumstances and eligibility for a Studylink Allowance);
- ♦ Potential to succeed in the academic programme for the professions of Dentistry, Medicine or Pharmacy.

In making a recommendation for this scholarship the Shortlisting Committee shall take into account other scholarships, bursaries and awards held by the candidates, with a view to achieving a fair distribution of monies among qualifying candidates.

Final awarding of the scholarship will be made by the Salvation Army BCM Academic Board.

Up to two Scholarships will be awarded annually. The Selection Committee is not obliged to make an award if in any year there is no candidate of sufficient merit.

Financial

- ♦ The scholarship, valued at \$6,000 per annum, is received in the form of reduced Residential College fees*, or as a monthly stipend.
- ♦ If the student withdraws from study, fails to gain admission to one of the eligible professional programmes (Dentistry, Medicine or Pharmacy), or to maintain a B+ average or equivalent per year (if applicable), all payments will cease. Any other financial arrangements shall be at the discretion of the University in consultation with the Salvation Army.

*Reduction to the *first* instalment of Residential College fees cannot be guaranteed.

Tenure

- ♦ The Scholarship may be awarded for up to three years.
- ♦ The University of Otago will provide the Salvation Army with the student's academic results every semester (if applicable).
- ♦ To maintain the scholarship the student must maintain a B+ average or equivalent per year (if applicable) and/or gain admission to the subsequent years of the eligible professional programme (Dentistry, Medicine or Pharmacy).
- ♦ The Salvation Army Marie Fitness Endowment Scholarship may be held concurrently with the University of Otago Dux Scholarship, but in such cases the remuneration for the Dux Scholarship will not be paid. The Scholarship may not be held concurrently with any other University of Otago scholarship valued at more than \$3,000.