



N G Stewart Scholarship

The N G Stewart Scholarship was established in 2003 with funds bequeathed by Norman George Stewart (1913 – 1997) through the Stewart Coomb Trust.

Mr Stewart was Managing Director of the Dunedin Company J K Mooney New Zealand Limited, an exporter of wool and skins, and also served as a Director of a number of Dunedin companies.

After returning from service with the Royal Navy during the Second World War he became interested in assisting with the rehabilitation of disabled servicemen in Dunedin. He served for many years as national Chairman of the Disabled Re-establishment League and also served as Chairman of the Otago Foundation from 1969 to 1992. He was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in 1975 for his work with people with disabilities.

Although he did not graduate from the University of Otago, Mr Stewart served on the Knox College Council for many years and was also an enthusiastic advocate of the University of Otago.

Eligibility

Candidates must:

- ♦ Be a New Zealand citizen or a New Zealand permanent resident
- ♦ Have a disability of at least six months or longer
- ♦ Be intending to enrol, or already be enrolled in an undergraduate degree at the University of Otago

A student who has held the scholarship may apply again for up to a further two years, provided that he or she continues to make satisfactory progress in all respects.

In exceptional circumstances, an application may be considered from a candidate with a disability who does not meet all of the above criteria but whose situation presents similar barriers to attending university.

Academic ability and commitment to the area of disability will be the primary criteria by which recipients are selected.

Application Process

Every application for the scholarship must be submitted to the Scholarships Office no later than 15 January in the intended year of tenure.

Every application must:

- ♦ Be on the prescribed application form, available on the University of Otago website and/or on request from the Scholarships Office
- ♦ Include the names of two referees (normally a staff member of the applicant's most recent school, college or university and another person who can attest to the character of the applicant and the nature of his or her disability; applicants should ask their referees to ensure that their confidential references reach the Undergraduate Scholarships Administrator no later than 15 January)
- ♦ Include a statement (max 500 words), written by the individual, briefly describing the nature of their disability, how this disability impacts on their life, what strategies they use to manage this situation and what makes them a worthy recipient of the scholarship

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

Nominees for the scholarship shall be selected by a panel comprising of the Director of Development and Alumni Relations, and the Manager of Disability Information and Support and a nominee of the Scholarships Committee (or their nominees).

Financial

- ♦ The award has a value of up to **\$1,500**.

Tenure

- ♦ The scholarship may be held for one year only. The selection panel may, in exceptional circumstances, consider an extension of the award to more than one year provided that the scholar makes a further application and continues to make satisfactory progress in all respects. If part-time, this can be paid on a pro-rata basis to a maximum value of **\$750**, subject to approval.
- ♦ Each scholarship must be taken up in the year in which it is awarded.
- ♦ The scholarship may be held concurrently with other awards, subject to approval from the selection panel.

Requirements

The scholarship holder must:

- ♦ Submit a report on his or her year's activities to the Doctoral and Scholarships Office by 1 December of the year of tenure.

Publicity

The University of Otago and the Stewart Coombs Trust reserve the right to use the names, photographs and details of successful applicants for the purposes of advertising and publicity. The scholarship holders must agree to be reasonably available to participate in interviews and promotional activities if requested by the University or the Trust.