



The Joan, Arthur & Helen Thacker Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Scholarship

Established by the University of Otago Council in 2014, through the provision of funding from Helen R Thacker, this scholarship aims to support students of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent to undertake postgraduate studies in the field of Health Sciences at the University of Otago. The purpose of the fund is to support research and training in health sciences subjects that may have a future benefit to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities.

Eligibility

The scholarship is open to students who are:

- ♦ of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent;
- ♦ Australian citizens and residing in Australia at the time of application;
- ♦ planning to enrol in a postgraduate course of study in either Dental Technology, Dentistry, Oral Health, Medicine, Neuroscience, Pharmacy or Radiation Therapy at the University of Otago;
- ♦ planning to undertake study/research that is likely to be of future benefit to their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community; and
- ♦ intending to return to work in Australia after their course of study.

Application

Every application for the scholarship must be submitted to the Doctoral & Scholarships Office no later than 1 October in the year prior to when that study will commence. Applicants are required to submit:

- ♦ their full tertiary academic transcript;
- ♦ a curriculum vitae including the names and contact details of two academic referees;
- ♦ a letter of support from the applicant's Dean or Head of Faculty or appropriate person;
- ♦ a statement of the proposed course of study, including the location and dates, which explains the possible benefit of the study to their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community (no more than 500 words);
- ♦ a copy of their passport details page; and
- ♦ a clear declaration that the applicant is of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent: that the applicant identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait community in which they come from.

Selection

An awarding committee, consisting of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Health Sciences, the Director of the Māori Development Office, the Director of Development and Helen R Thacker, or their nominees, shall consider the following factors in recommending the award of scholarship:

- ♦ The academic record of the applicant
- ♦ The proposed subject to be studied, including the expected benefit to the Aboriginal community
- ♦ The applicant's general ability to undertake the proposed study

Candidates may be required to present for an interview with the selection panel, either in person or by telephone or videoconference; the University will meet reasonable expenses associated with participation.

The awarding committee reserves the right not to make an award or to make multiple awards in any year, depending on funding and the availability of suitable candidates.

Financial Arrangements

- ♦ For doctoral study, the scholarship shall provide an emolument of \$25,000 per annum plus a tuition fee waiver, to a maximum of \$30,000 per annum.
- ♦ For other postgraduate study, the scholarship shall provide a monthly stipend, paid at a rate of \$15,000 per annum, plus a tuition fee waiver, for the length of the approved course of study, to a maximum of \$30,000 per annum.
- ♦ The value of the scholarship will be reviewed from time to time.

Tenure

- ♦ The tenure of the scholarship is for up to three years for doctoral-level study and for the length of the approved course of study in the case of a Master's or other postgraduate degree (to a maximum of two years).
- ♦ The scholarship must normally be taken up in the year in which it is awarded and part-time study is not normally permitted. Deferrals of the scholarship may be granted up to a maximum of 18 months but only in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Selection Committee.
- ♦ The award may only be held concurrently with another scholarship, or limited paid employment, with the express approval of the Selection Committee.
- ♦ Continuation of award is dependent on satisfactory progress in the degree for which the award is given. In paper-based courses, maintenance of a grade average of B shall normally be required.

Other Requirements

- ♦ Award of the scholarship is dependent on the recipient being admitted to the programme and enrolled in the degree for which the funding is given.
- ♦ For a candidate undertaking doctoral study, an annual progress report must be submitted to the Graduate Research Committee. For a Master's or other postgraduate students, an annual progress report should be submitted to the Course Program Co-ordinator. The report must be submitted at the conclusion of each year and a copy sent to the Development & Alumni Relations Office, for the Donor.
- ♦ The recipient must acknowledge support of the Joan, Arthur & Helen Thacker Aboriginal Postgraduate Scholarship in any publication resulting from the Scholarship either during or following its 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.