



University of Otago Postgraduate Scholarship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

The Postgraduate Scholarship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology was established as a Faculty of Medicine Scholarship in 2004 with funds provided from the New Zealand Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society. These funds, first gifted in 1931, had initially provided travel scholarships when postgraduate training in the discipline was commonly carried out overseas. The establishment of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RANZCOG) in 1998 meant that postgraduate training towards membership of RANZCOG became commonly undertaken in New Zealand, and this led to the initial amendments to the scholarship, with overseas travel no longer required. The scholarship was further amended to remove restrictions on part-time study in 2014.

The Scholarship is intended to provide support for Obstetrics and Gynaecology trainees to carry out research in Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women's Health whilst enrolled at the University of Otago for a graduate research degree, such as a Master of Medical Science (MMedSc) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). It is desirable, but not compulsory, that the research be carried out at the University of Otago.

Eligibility

Applications are open to students who are:

- ♦ Medical graduates (normally Registrars enrolled in the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Integrated Training Programme, or Members or Fellows of the College), and
- ♦ Enrolled in, or intending to enrol in a research Master's degree or PhD, normally towards a topic in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology or Women's Health.

Application Process

Every applicant must submit an application to the University of Otago Scholarships Office by the specified closing date. Such application should include.

- ♦ A covering letter detailing the proposed degree and a summary of the research the applicant plans to undertake,
- ♦ A brief Curriculum Vitae,
- ♦ The names of three referees who may be contacted to comment on the applicant's suitability for the scholarship.

Selection Process

The Selection Committee, consisting of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine or their nominee (in the Chair), the Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology from each of the University's three main campuses or their nominees, a representative of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and a representative of the New Zealand Medical Association, shall consider the following factors when awarding this scholarship:

- ♦ Academic ability and attainment,
- ♦ Research capability,
- ♦ The merit of the proposed research.

Usually one scholarship will be offered per year, however more than one scholarship may be offered in any year if funds permit. The Selection Committee reserve the right to not make an offer in any year if applications are deemed of insufficient quality.

Financial Arrangements

- ♦ The scholarship is set at \$25,000 stipend per annum, plus tuition fees (up to a maximum of \$9000 incl GST) per annum.
- ♦ If the applicant withdraws from study or submits their thesis for examination, payments shall cease.

Tenure

- ♦ The scholarship is for one (equivalent full-time) year only. A recipient studying towards a doctoral degree may apply for a second or third year of support however preference in selection decisions will normally be given to new applicants.
- ♦ The scholarship may only be held part-time with approval from the Selection Committee. When held part-time the stipend will be paid at half the rate during part-time enrolment.
- ♦ The scholarship may not be held concurrently with other University of Otago scholarships without approval from the Selection Committee.

Other Requirements

Each Scholarship recipient must:

- ♦ Provide a report on progress to the Chair of the Selection Committee at the end of their year of tenure.
- ♦ Agree to be reasonably available to participate in interviews and promotional activities if requested by the University of Otago.
- ♦ Acknowledge receipt of the scholarship in any publications arising out of work conducted during the tenure of the award.

The Selection Committee may, at its discretion, terminate or suspend the scholarship for what is considered grave cause.