

Philippa Sweetman Scholarship

Established in 1993 by the University of Otago, this scholarship was first created in 1982 by Murray and Nessie Sweetman, in memory of their daughter, Philippa Sweetman. The scholarship was originally awarded to a candidate proceeding to the second or third year of a Bachelor of Consumer and Applied Sciences degree (including Honours) whose progress was satisfactory and who was deemed to have demonstrated application and determination in their studies. Special consideration was afforded to candidates who were shown to have succeeded in their studies despite adversity or disability.

Since the merger of Consumer and Applied Sciences and Applied Sciences programmes in 2012, and the disestablishment of Clothing and Textile Sciences papers and specialisations in 2020, the scholarship's focus has had to evolve. Due to these and other academic and structural changes, the scholarship is now available to students in their final year of a Bachelor of Social Work degree (including Honours) or the final year of a Bachelor's degree with a major in Food Science or Human Nutrition (including Honours). The academic progress and character requirements all still apply.

Eligibility

Applicants for this award must:

- be a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder
- be enrolled in their final year of study towards:
 - a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) or Bachelor of Social Work with Honours (BSW(Hons)), or
 - a Bachelor's degree with a major in Food Science or Human Nutrition (including Honours), and
- have demonstrated application and determination in their academic endeavours.

A candidate succeeding in their studies in spite of adversity or disability shall be given special consideration, but the scholarship will not normally be awarded for financial adversity.

Application Process

Every application for the scholarship must be submitted to Student Administration (Scholarships) at the University of Otago by the specified closing date.

Every applicant must submit:

- a completed application form
- an up-to-date curriculum vitae
- a brief personal statement describing the applicant's suitability for the award, including (if relevant) a description of any specific disability or exceptional personal circumstances affecting their studies
- an academic reference letter from the Head of the relevant discipline, and
- a copy of their academic transcript if previous study was undertaken at another tertiary institution.

Selection Process

The selection panel will consist of the following members (or their nominees): Head of Department for Food Science, Head of Department for Human Nutrition, Head of Programme for Social and Community Work, the Director, Development and Alumni Relations and the Manager, Postgraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Awards.

The following factors shall be considered in selecting the successful applicant(s):

- the applicant's academic record
- evidence the applicant has been dedicated and determined in the pursuit of their studies
- the applicant's personal statement, including any declaration of disability or adversity, and
- the endorsement of the Head of the relevant discipline.

The selection panel may require an interview with short-listed applicants for the scholarship.

Financial

- Up to three scholarships may be awarded each year.
- The total amount awarded *per recipient* will normally be \$3,000, but will depend on the number of scholarships awarded (1, 2 or 3) and the total value of funds available for disbursement.
- The scholarship will normally be paid to the recipient in a single lump sum.
- The number and value of scholarships available each year will be determined by the selection panel.

Tenure

- The scholarship may be held with full-time or part-time tenure.
- The scholarship must be taken up within one year of being awarded.
- The scholarship may be held concurrently with any other University of Otago scholarship where its regulations also allow co-tenure.

Other Requirements

- Award of the scholarship is dependent on the recipient being admitted to the University of Otago.
- 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.