

## Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust Mana Tangata Scholarship

*Established in 2024 by the University of Otago, in collaboration with the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust. Created in support of the School of Physiotherapy, this scholarship will be awarded annually to two final-year Physiotherapy students of Māori or Pacific ancestry with a genuine interest in neurorehabilitation. The term Mana Tangata in the title may be translated as “the prestige of the people”, which serves to emphasise the intrinsic honour and value of the University’s Māori and indigenous Pacific student communities.*

### **Eligibility**

Every applicant for this scholarship must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder
- of verifiable Māori or indigenous Pacific descent
- enrolled (or planning to enrol) in the final year (400-level) of a Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPhty) or Bachelor of Physiotherapy with Honours (BPhty(Hons)) degree at the University of Otago, and
- interested in the field of neurorehabilitation.

### **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
- a brief (max. one page) explanation of their overall suitability for the award, with particular reference to their interest in neurorehabilitation
- verification of Māori or indigenous Pacific ancestry <https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/otago666451.html>
- a copy of their academic transcript if not previously an Otago student.

### **Selection Process**

The Selection Panel will consist of the Dean of the School of Physiotherapy, the Associate Dean Māori (for Physiotherapy), the Associate Dean Pacific (for Physiotherapy), the Clinical Education Programme Lead, a physiotherapist external to the School (appointed by the Dean), and the Director, Development and Alumni Relations, or their nominees.

The Selection Panel will keep the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust (“the Trust”) informed of progress in choosing the two recipients, and will advise the Trust of their final decision.

The following factors shall be considered in selecting the successful applicants:

- the nature and extent of the applicants’ interest in the field of neurorehabilitation
- the applicants’ academic ability and potential
- any financial or other personal hardship presenting a barrier to academic success
- any other matter the Selection Panel may deem relevant.

The Selection Panel may require an interview with short-listed applicants for the scholarship.

### ***Financial***

- There will normally be two scholarships awarded each year. However, scholarships will only be awarded if the Selection Panel determines there are applications of sufficient quality.
- The total value of each scholarship awarded will be \$6,000.
- The scholarship funds will be applied first towards the recipient's tuition fees, with any unused portion to be paid (by instalment) as a stipend for living costs.

### ***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.
- As part of the relationship established by this scholarship the recipient may have an opportunity to undertake a 6-week clinical placement with the Trust in Christchurch, but this is not guaranteed.