

## Entrance Scholarships & Residential Colleges Application Cheat Sheet

- Why scholarships? The University invests in potential, please apply
- Prepare - <https://www.otago.ac.nz/future-students/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/index.html> Do some reading at the prepare tile and then you can write up your application in a document before you apply. That way you can cut and paste, edit, and use the information for other applications later.
- Apply to enrol (most applications for 2025 open in May) before entrance scholarships open on 1 July - [www.otago.ac.nz](http://www.otago.ac.nz)
- Go to **ready to enrol tile** to follow steps to create an eVision portal
- You need to select a subject (major) or a course of study and a qualification. This doesn't commit you to coming to Otago and you can change your course later in the year
- Just enter one qualification (course or degree) and one major subject (for now, we can add minors etc later)
- Make sure you use EXACTLY the same name in your Otago application as the one that is on your NZQA records
- You need to complete the first two steps of the application for the apply now button to appear - personal details, contact details and educational background
- 1 July - applications open on-line – go to **my scholarships and awards** title in your portal and follow the yellow button
- 15 August – most applications close
- Range \$2,000 - \$30,000
- You will be awarded the highest value possible
- Range of types – academic, educational achievements, leadership, extracurricular activities, sporting, cultural, ethnic diversity, financial and family circumstances, disabilities – **fill out every field that is applicable to you**
- For the high performance scholarship, you do not have to continue with your sport or other activity while you are studying – the last question in this section is not a trap – if you don't want to continue that activity, you are still eligible for that scholarship
- Tell us the full story of you and your family, not just your school results (everything is confidential and seen only by a handful of people)
- Apply - all it costs you is your time
- Be precise and concise and seek advice – bullet points are fine
- Select the relevant information and brag humbly

- Save your comments elsewhere so you can use them for other applications, colleges, other scholarships etc
- Select the best referee – they are vital to support you, please let them know you have chosen them
- Save your application as you go – you don't have to do it all at once
- A good application can take two hours in total, please check your spelling
- Meet the deadline - 15 August and remember to **hit the submit button**
- You will receive a pop-up message and an alert in your portal when you have submitted the application – if that doesn't happen contact the entrance scholarships team as there may be a glitch in the system - [entrance.scholarships@otago.ac.nz](mailto:entrance.scholarships@otago.ac.nz)
- Other scholarships available from the University of Otago can be found here – worth a look through these too - <https://www.otago.ac.nz/graduate-research/scholarships/undergraduate/index.html>
- Nationwide databases of all scholarships worth a browse too - <https://studyspy.ac.nz/search/scholarships> & <https://www.moneyhub.co.nz/students.html>

#### FAQs and myth busters:

- 1) You can be considered for entrance scholarships if you are going into Health Sciences First Year or Engineering Intermediate. The only scholarship that you would be ineligible for is the New Frontiers Excellence/Sustained Excellence Scholarship.
- 2) Whilst the majority of our scholarships require applicants to have achieved at least NCEA Level 2 endorsed with Merit (or equivalent), we still encourage students to submit an application regardless of their Year 12 results. We take other circumstances into consideration when assessing applications.
- 3) We encourage students to complete as many sections of the application as are relevant to them. For example, if you are not of Māori or Indigenous Pacific ancestry, then we would not recommend completing either of those sections, as they are not relevant to you.
- 4) If you want to be considered for scholarships based on Māori or Indigenous Pacific ancestry, you do not need to have had your ancestry verified in order to submit your scholarship application. You just need to complete the relevant sections and submit your application by the 15th August to be considered. However, we recommend that you start the process of verifying your ancestry as soon as possible.
- 5) You do not need to have competed at international/national level to be considered for a sport or cultural activity based scholarship. The activities and achievements listed in the application and on our website are just examples. Regardless of whether your sport or cultural activity is conducted inside or outside of school, we want to hear your story!

**And more here - <https://www.otago.ac.nz/future-students/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/faq/index.html>**

## Tips for applying for Residential Colleges

- There are 15 residential colleges for first year students - do your research – on-line (websites, Facebook public pages) and in person - <https://www.otago.ac.nz/future-students/accommodation/colleges/index.html>
- Total cost per year, approximately \$20,000, some colleges charge more than others
- Applications open on 1 August on-line through your portal
- Start your application ASAP by filling out the CCRF (reference) request section and this request will go directly to your school so they know to complete a reference for you - <https://ccrf.dotnous.co.nz/students/>
- Applications for the first round of offers are due on 30 September (ideally by 15 September when your school submits the confidential reference - CCRF)
- If you are applying for Salmond College because you are attending Otago Polytechnic, please tick the Otago University box as well so the application will go to Salmond College
- You have three choices, be strategic, **not everyone from your school can go to the same one**
- Colleges that tend to have the most applications are Arana, Selwyn, Studholme, Hayward, and Cumberland
- Again, take care and time over your application – there has a lot of competition for places over the past few years
- If you are offered a scholarship (excluding New Frontiers) and your application for a college is in by 30 September, you will get an offer of a place in a college but not necessarily in any of your choices. It may not be in the first round of offers but there will be an offer of a college place asap
- Talk about yourself in your application – colleges already have your school results
- Selection process involves looking at your course of study, academic results, extracurricular activities, and the reference from your school
- College heads are trying to achieve a balance of genders, schools, locations, and study areas
- If you are on the waitlist, there are homestay and flatting options available to you – contact the accommodation office about these
- The first payment is due mid-October and is approximately \$950, you need to have funds for this, scholarships and Studylink can't be used until the following year
- Scholarship funds can be used to pay the next payment due on 1 February, but Studylink financing is not available for this payment as it is due before University starts

More information about how to apply can be found here - <https://www.otago.ac.nz/future-students/accommodation/colleges/index.html>

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/accommodation/apply-for-accommodation/index.html>