



OPPA / University of Otago College of Education Prestigious Study Award 2025

Preamble

The Otago Primary Principals Association (OPPA) wishes to encourage and support school leaders as they engage in high-level professional development.

Current research supports the premise that quality leadership is critical in enhancing learning outcomes for students. OPPA contends that leadership itself is enhanced through the benefit of in-depth study and this will be supported through appropriate leave to carry out specific study in New Zealand and/or overseas (with current global situation taken into account).

This award is open to all OPPA members and the subsequent papers/reports may be disseminated nationally through the NZPF national conference, the principals' magazine and the OPPA website.

The study award will be directly related to current New Zealand educational goals and objectives, and all applications must reflect this.

Purpose of Award

To provide an opportunity for principals who are members of the OPPA to study in specific areas of professional leadership, which support New Zealand's national goals and objectives.

Timeframe

Paid leave to undertake study will be for **three weeks during 2025**. Applicants may wish to do this around a school break.

The application process will be completed at least three months prior to the starting date for the study leave.

Financial Considerations

The University of Otago College of Education will provide a study grant of up to \$8000.

The successful applicants Board will continue to pay the salary of the study award recipient.

The Ministry of Education will meet the relief costs to ensure participation. This will include funding for staff who may have to 'act up' to the Principal's role. TeachNZ manage the process for the OPPA prestigious award, in a similar way as they manage sabbatical leave. Once an award has been confirmed, the Principal should receive a letter confirming this and including a payroll code that any additional staffing costs will be coded against. Payroll would then need to be notified of this.

Application Procedures

The OPPA study award will be regionally advertised through its own publications and email tree and will include clear guidelines including purpose, eligibility and timeframes.

There is an application form.

Selection Process

A selection panel will be established which will consist of three OPPA Executive members and one NZSBA representative. In the event that more than one office bearer applies for the award their place will be taken by a past president of the OPPA. The selection panel will meet within one week of the application process. Applications close on **Friday 10 October 2025 at 5 p.m.**

Applications to:
secretary@oppa.org.nz

Applicants must be financial members of the OPPA.

Interviews, if necessary, will take place within the 2 weeks after the closing date for applications.

OPPA will meet all costs related to this process.

Conclusion:

The OPPA sees this as a very important partnership with the University of Otago College of Education, the Ministry of Education and the Minister.

By establishing the OPPA Study Award as a prestigious award, we believe a clear signal is being given that principals' professional development is important and quality leadership is seen as integral to successful schools.

This award will be a positive addition to the excellent initiatives already in place for New Zealand principals.

OPPA Prestigious Scholarship Application form

Please forward your application via email to:

Verity Harlick
OPPA Secretary
secretary@oppa.org.nz

By 5 pm, Friday 10 October 2025

Personal information:

Name:

Phone number:

Address:

Email:

School Name and Address:

Research proposal – a brief summary of the topic for study/research (50 words limit)

Experience/qualifications related to topic study

Research proposal – why this is of particular interest, impact on own school on return, possible influence on wider education system in New Zealand. Any research carried out to date. 400 word limit

Reporting – specific ways information will be communicated to other principals.

Itinerary which should include any initial contacts for school or institution visits already made, as well as tentative or possible visits

Proposed budget

Applicant's signature _____ **Date** _____