

Criteria for granting funding to students from the Vice-Chancellor's Discretionary Fund

In addition to achieving academic excellence, students at the University of Otago are encouraged to participate in the wide range of extra-curricular activities offered during their time at Otago. Our goal is to educate students as a whole person, recognising that some of the important lessons that they will learn will take place outside the lecture theatre, laboratory or library.

One of our strategic imperatives is to provide a bolder, broader student experience, and our graduates are known for their intellectual and personal independence and maturity, setting them apart in the eyes of employers and the community. These high quality students and graduates are extremely positive role models and important ambassadors for the University of Otago on the national and international stage.

To facilitate student participation in representing the University of Otago in selected extra-curricular activities, the Vice-Chancellor may consider making a grant from the Discretionary Fund to any student who applies for funding, as follows:

Application requirements:

- Written documentation confirming that the student is representing the University of Otago at a recognised international competition / event.
- Written request for funding outlining the competition / event details, the total cost involved, the amount of financial assistance requested, and what a grant from the Vice-Chancellor will be spent on.
- Details of other fundraising or sponsorship sought elsewhere.
- A brief statement of the benefits to the student and to the University of Otago from the student undertaking this activity.

Criteria to meet funding approval:

- Must be a current student at the University of Otago.
- Must be officially representing the University of Otago at a recognised international competition / event. (Note: participation in national teams and at academic conferences / symposia etc is not covered.)
- Must be a student in good academic standing (academic record required).

Amount of funding that may be provided (each case will be considered on its own merits):

- Event in Australia – up to \$500
- Event at other overseas destination – up to \$1,000

Following the event:

- The student must provide a written report (no more than one page) to the Vice-Chancellor within one month after the event.
- The student must be prepared, if required, to be interviewed by media and featured in relevant University publicity.

These grants are allocated to individual students on the basis of good academic standing and are to be spent by those individuals only on travel / accommodation costs in attending the competition / event – grants are not to be spent on other purposes or to be pooled across other team members.

Application forms are available from the Vice-Chancellor's Office.