



The University of Otago Blues and Golds Awards Criteria

Last Ratified: May 2024

First awarded in 1908, The University of Otago Blues continue to be highly prized as a recognition of outstanding student sporting achievement.

Otago was the first New Zealand university to adopt the traditional English university Blues system, which began at Oxford and Cambridge universities with the awarding of a "Blue" to rowers and then, later, to other sportspeople. The name derived from the light blue colours worn by the Cambridge rowers and the dark blue hues of the Oxford crews taking part in their annual boat race on the Thames. Since 1908, we have added additional awards to not only celebrate sport, but also arts, culture and service.

Receiving an award at our Blues and Golds ceremony is the highest honour we can present students who have excelled in these areas.

All nominees must be an enrolled student of the University of Otago at the time of the awards and or selection (unless otherwise stated below).

The Awards

University of Otago 'Blues' Award

The Blues Awards for sporting excellence are a long standing tradition that have been awarded at the University of Otago since 1908 – these are the greatest accolade that can be awarded to those University of Otago students that excel in their chosen sporting field.

University of Otago 'Golds' Award

The Golds Awards are the highest accolade that the University of Otago can bestow on those University of Otago students involved in the cultural sphere. They reward excellence and exceptional achievement in the chosen artistic or cultural field. OUSA has awarded Golds Awards since 2002.

University of Otago 'Sportsperson of the Year' Award

University of Otago 'Highly Commended Sportsperson of the Year' Award

These awards recognise the high performance, service and example in their chosen field, including expressing the ideals of true sportsmanship.

University of Otago 'Māori Sportsperson of the Year' Award

This Taonga, first awarded in 2000, recognises the most outstanding Māori Sportsperson at the University of Otago. This person best represents Māori through his or her performances in top-level sport.

University of Otago 'Outstanding Contribution to Arts and Culture' Award

Honours an individual who exemplify dedication in their chosen field, embodying the values of true commitment and service to the arts and culture community. Nominees must present compelling evidence of their exceptional contributions and the substantial positive impact of their work.

OUSA 'Silver Service' Award

OUSA awards a Silver Service Award to University of Otago students and members of its affiliated Clubs to recognise their exceptional contributions. This may involve Administration, Coaching, Managing, Officiating and other contributions considered worthy by the Panel.

OUSA 'Coach of the Year' Award

This award was introduced in 2013, to recognise the significant input and achievements of coaches in the community. This Award is available to any coach coaching an OUSA Affiliated Club or any University of Otago student coaching anywhere in the country.

OUSA 'Sports Club of the Year' Award

Recognising excellence in the management, administration and promotion from an OUSA Affiliated Sports Club. Providing positive community awareness and engagement.

OUSA 'Society of the Year' Award

Recognising excellence in the management, administration and promotion of any OUSA Affiliated Club or Society. Providing positive community awareness and engagement.

OUSA 'Cultural Society of the Year' Award

Recognises excellence in the management, administration and promotion of any OUSA Affiliated Cultural Club or Society. Providing positive community awareness and engagement. This award is for International Cultural Clubs specifically.

'Outstanding Member of the Dunedin Community' Award

Recognising a student with an altruistic spirit who has significantly contributed to the wider local community during their time in Dunedin. A student who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in either a community project, volunteer work, participating in environmental conservation efforts, mentoring youth, or in their support for local charities and non-profit organizations.

'Outstanding Member of the University Community' Award

This award highlights a student who has been an integral part of the University of Otago community and deserves recognition. For example, a student who has shown impressive leadership skills to benefit the student body or has been an exceptional volunteer at university or OUSA events.

BLUES CRITERIA

The Blues Awards for sporting excellence are a long standing tradition that have been awarded at the University of Otago since 1908 – these are the greatest accolade that can be awarded to those University of Otago students that excel in their chosen sporting field. The University of Otago Blues and Golds Panel make recommendations to the OUSA Executive, of recipients of the University of Otago Blues Award with guidelines listed below each sport.

All sports are recognised for both women's and men's competitors, unless otherwise stated. Where a sport is not prescribed, a nomination can still be made. Whether the nomination qualifies for an award will be determined by assessing against the same high calibre of comparable sports.

Recognised sports may include; but are not limited to the following sports:

Athletics

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Olympic Games
- Youth Olympic Games
- Commonwealth Games
- IAAF World Championships
- World University Cross Country Championships
- World University Games
- IAU 100km World Cup
- IAU World 24 hour Challenge
- NZ Championship Events In Stadia & Out of Stadia -Senior & U20 medallists.

Aerobics Gymnastics

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Commonwealth Games
- World Championships
- National Squad

Badminton

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Olympic Games
- Commonwealth Games
- World Championship
- Wisden Cup (Division 1) or Slazenger Cup (Division 2)
- Selected to attend the Badminton New Zealand (BNZ) NZ Tour finals
- Competed in, and, made it to the final four/semi-final round in the BNZ NZ National Championships

Basketball

Must have been selected and played for one of the following:

- New Zealand - Tall Black or Tall Fern
- Māori Basketball Representative teams
- New Zealand – Under 20
- Otago - Nuggets or Southern Hoiho

Body Building

Must finish in the top 3 at either:

- IFBB (International Federation of Body Building) Nationals
- NABBA (National Amateur Body Building Association) Nationals

Bowls (Indoor and Lawn)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Commonwealth Games
- World Bowls Championships
- World Cup
- Asia Pacific Championships
- International Tests - Open or Under 25
- Trans-Tasman Test
- National Inter-centre Championships (Lion Foundation)
- Hyundai National Open Championships - top 3

Canoe and Kayak (Flatwater Sprint Racing, Marathon Racing and SurfSki Ocean Racing)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Olympic Games
- World Championships
- World Cup
- New Zealand National Championship (singles: top 6 placing/doubles: top 4 placing)*
 - *Distance for Women: 200m/500m
 - *Distance for Men: 1000m/200m

Canoe Polo

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- New Zealand – Paddle Blacks or Paddle Ferns
- National “A Grade” representative team (age group or senior)

Cricket

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- New Zealand – Black Caps or White Ferns
- New Zealand Under-19 - including age groups teams and 'A' teams
- Otago or other New Zealand Province

Cycling (Road, Track, Mountain Biking and BMX)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Olympic Games
- Commonwealth Games
- World Championship
- New Zealand Championship – Elite Category (Medallist)

Dance

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- World Championship
- Performing Arts Competitions Association of New Zealand – top 3
- New Zealand Championship – placing
- New Zealand Dance Awards - placing

Duathlon

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Olympic Games
- Commonwealth Games
- World Championships Elite
- World Series Championship
- World Cup (top 20 placing)
- World Age Group Championship (top 10 placing)
- Oceania Championship (top 10 placing)
- New Zealand Duathlon (top 3 placing)

Equestrian (Dressage, Eventing, Endurance & CTR, Jumping & Show, Para Equestrian)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Olympic Games
- World Challenge Title
- New Zealand Young Rider Team
- National Championship placing or title

Football/Soccer

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- New Zealand – All Whites or Football Ferns
- Māori Football Representative
- New Zealand Province - above 17 years
- Have been in the University club for two seasons

Futsal

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- New Zealand – Futsal Whites or Futsal Ferns
- New Zealand Province - above 17 years
- Youth Futsal Championship

Handball

Must have been selected for one of the following:

- New Zealand - National Team
- New Zealand - National Junior or Youth - above 17 years

Hockey

Must have been selected for one of the following:

- New Zealand – Black Sticks Women & Men
- New Zealand Māori
- New Zealand - Junior Black Sticks (Under 21)
- Otago - Southern National Hockey League

Ice Hockey

Must have been selected for one of the following:

- New Zealand – Ice Blacks or Ice Ferns
- New Zealand - Under 20
- Otago – Phoenix Thunder

Ice Figure Skating

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- International Squad during their studies at the University of Otago (qualified at the NZ Ice Figure Skating Championships)
- International Skating Union (ISU) recognised international competition
- World Championships Representing New Zealand
- Four Seasons or a Senior Grand Prix event

Multisport

Must have been placed in the Top 3 in their category in one of the:

- Coast to Coast 1 Day World Championships
- Australasian Multisport Championship
- World Adventure Racing Series Championship
- New Zealand Multisport Elite Championships (K-Bar)
- Godzone Adventure Race

Netball

Must have been selected for one of the following:

- New Zealand - Silver Ferns & Development Squad
- New Zealand – Under 21
- New Zealand – Men's and Mixed
- Otago - Southern Steel & Southern Steel Under 21 (ANZ Premiership)

Powerlifting

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Commonwealth Games
 - Brown Grade or above - men or women
 - Placed at a National Competition
 - Reached Bronze Grade or better for their bodyweight class*
- *makes competitor eligible for selection for World Junior Championships

Rowing (Individual)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Olympic Games
- FISA World Rowing Championships
- Trans-Tasman Rowing Championship
- New Zealand – Senior Rowing, Under 21, Universities Squads – men's or women's
- New Zealand National Rowing Championships - Premier, Senior, Club, Novice, Age Group
- New Zealand Under 21 Youth Cup

Rugby Union

Must have been selected and played for one of the following:

- New Zealand - All Blacks, Black Ferns, All Black Sevens, Black Ferns Sevens, Māori All Blacks, New Zealand Under 20
- Super Rugby Pacific Highlanders Squad

- Otago NPC or Otago Spirit Squads
- New Zealand Universities (at discretion of the panel)

Squash

Must have been selected or competed in one of the following:

- Commonwealth Games
- PSA World Squash Championships
- B1 Grade – New Zealand national grading list
- Otago Districts - National Squash Teams Event
- Dunedin Premier League or equivalent

Surf Life Saving (ocean, beach and pool)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Lifesaving World Championships
- New Zealand National Championships – placing top 3 in individual events– men’s or women’s
- New Zealand National Championships – gold medal in team events – men’s or women’s
- Surf Life Saving New Zealand – High Performance Squad

Swimming

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Olympic Games
- Commonwealth Games
- World Championships
- World Masters Swimming Championships - top 3
- Oceania Swimming Championships
- Pan Pacific Games
- New Zealand Open or Age Group Championships
- South Island Championships

Triathlon

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Olympic Games
- Commonwealth Games
- World Championships Elite
- World Series Championship
- World Age Group Championship - top 10
- World Cup - top 20
- Oceania Championship - top 10
- New Zealand Triathlon - top 3 placing

Underwater Hockey

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- World Championship
- Southern Hemisphere Championship
- Trans-Tasman Championship
- Southern Regional Team - Inter-Zone Championship

Volleyball (indoor, beach)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Commonwealth Games
- New Zealand – Volleyball Blacks, Volleyferns, Beach Blacks, BeachFerns
- New Zealand – Junior Mens and Womens Indoor
- New Zealand – ‘A’ Mens, Womens, Under 19, Youth Commonwealth Games
- Volleyball New Zealand Club Championships - Gold Medallist

Weightlifting (snatch, clean and jerk)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Commonwealth Games
- Olympic Games
- International Weightlifting Federation World Championships
- Oceania Masters Championships
- New Zealand Masters Championships
- South Island/North Island Championships – top 3
- Must be B Grade or better for bodyweight class

Yachting (board sailing/paddle boarding)

Must have achieved at least one of the following:

- Top 5 placing at a National Championship event
- Selection in a New Zealand representative team (age group, development or senior)

GOLDS CRITERIA

OUSA has been awarding Golds Awards since 2002. The Golds Awards are the highest accolade that the University of Otago can bestow on students involved in the cultural and artistic areas. These awards recognise student's excellence and exceptional achievement in their chosen artistic or cultural field, which may include dance, dramatic and cultural performance, visual arts, architecture, design, film or media, writing, music, song, debating, or oration. The nominee must be an enrolled student at the University of Otago at the time of the competition.

All categories are recognised for both women's and men's participants, unless otherwise stated. Where an area is not prescribed, a nomination can still be made. Whether the nomination qualifies for an award will be determined by assessing against the same high calibre of comparable areas.

Nominations for all Golds Awards must accompany a letter of endorsement from their lecturer or equivalent professional.

Recognised areas may include; but are not limited to the following:

Classical Music Performers (instrumentals and solo singers)

Immediate Golds qualifications are:

- Finalist in the National Concerto Competition (instrumentalists)
- Finalist in the Lexus Song Quest (singers)

Other participations to make a portfolio for consideration:

- Soloist in premier national or local concerts - leading recognised promoters in leading New Zealand venues
- Regular participation in the University of Otago Music Department public concert series
- Top 3 prize winner in New Zealand Aria Competition (classical singers) and in instrumental competition recital classes
- Current musician of the National Youth Orchestra
- Current member of the New Zealand Youth Choir

Classical conductor (instrumental or choral)

- Professional recognition as conductor in a premier concert situation
- Regular conducting position of local professional group

Classical composer

- Prize-winner in recognised composition competitions
- Composition(s) performed in concerts promoted by recognised professional concert agencies

Dance / Acting / Contemporary Voice

- Soloist or leading role in recognised professional appearances
- Major prize-winner in national contest e.g. Performing Arts Competitions Association of New Zealand

- Sustained excellent contribution to the performance art

Waiata Māori or Kapa haka composition

Accredited to a student who is recognised to have composed a waiata or kapa haka item. The composition must be performed at a meeting or conference at the national level.

Meetings or conferences include, but are not limited to:

- Te Huinga Tauira (Māori national student's conference) Huinga Rōia (National Māori Law Students Conference and any other divisional equivalent).
- Any student conference at a national level. National level is defined to have the space for all student bodies from around the country to attend.
- The composition must be recognised through an award at that conference, a placing etc.
- Must be a waiata and/or bracket composed in te reo Māori.