

June 2017

Careers Advisor Information

Buster Thomas Memorial Scholarship

Buster Thomas, a pharmacist from Porirua and latterly in his career Johnsonville, bequeathed funds from his estate to the New Zealand Pharmacy Education and Research Foundation (NZPERF) to invest and apply the net proceeds to fund the establishment of a scholarship to be known as the Buster Thomas Memorial Scholarship.

This scholarship is to educate an intelligent student who is unable from his or her own available resources to afford to attend Otago University to graduate as a pharmacist. This scholarship is to pay all necessary university fees together with an income allowance to meet most of the necessary living expenses for a term of four (4) years. NZPERF has the discretion to award a further year if the student has not graduated after the first four (4) years if circumstances may have arisen which were not the fault of the student that he or she did not graduate during the period of four (4) years.

This scholarship will be awarded every four years and will cover fees and books and an accommodation allowance in a hall of residence for 38 weeks. This scholarship is for a total of \$15,000 per annum for 4 years.

The successful applicant will be encouraged to work in a local pharmacy during the summer break, to encourage them to participate in pharmacy life.

The student will be recommended a Hall of Residence to apply to with the support of the University of Otago representative on the NZPERF Board.

What is Pharmacy?

Pharmacists are health professionals. They are experts on medicines in the community. They have the skills and knowledge to help patients understand and use their medicines in the most appropriate way. The practice of pharmacy includes the development and manufacture of medicines, the supply and dispensing of medicines to patients, and the giving of information about medicines, drug therapy and disease management to patients, doctors and other health professionals.

Career opportunities

Pharmacy offers a wide variety of career choices – community, hospital, pharmaceutical industry, academia, research and medical publishing. Most pharmacists work in community pharmacy where they dispense, provide advice for minor ailments, conduct medicine use reviews and work with the prescriber for the most appropriate drug therapy for the patient.

Qualifications required

Otago University School of Pharmacy has a prerequisite of successful completion of the Otago Health Sciences First Year. The student will spend four years at university to obtain a BPharm degree. In order to become a registered pharmacist the graduate must complete an intern year at an approved site and successfully complete the assignments and final assessment.

Otago Health Sciences First Year (HSFY)

This is a prescribed seven paper programme to be completed in its entirety in the first year of university study at Otago University.

Pharmacy

Admission to second year classes in Pharmacy is competitive and selection is based upon the grade point average (GPA) achieved in the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) programme.

This scholarship is for four years and is dependent on the applicant's acceptance into Pharmacy School. However if the recipient is not accepted into Pharmacy School or changes their career path after the HSFY they will not be required to repay the funds awarded in the first year of this scholarship.

Links to further information

- The undergraduate programme
<http://www.otago.ac.nz/pharmacy/undergraduate/index.html>
- Pharmacy careers
<http://www.otago.ac.nz/pharmacy/undergraduate/careers/index.html>
- What our past students are doing
<http://www.otago.ac.nz/pharmacy/undergraduate/careers/graduate-profiles/index.html>