

Guidelines for applying for a Woolf Fisher Scholarship

Applications for the Woolf Fisher Scholarships for 2025 will close on

1 AUGUST 2024

These guidelines are intended to help you with your application.

If you have any questions that are not answered here you should contact the Scholarships Office at your university or Universities NZ.

Before proceeding with your application make sure you have read and understood the regulations and that you are eligible to apply for this scholarship.

General information:

Up to three Woolf Fisher Scholarships are awarded to New Zealand students each year.

You should apply using the Universities NZ on-line application web site. Applications must be submitted by 1 August.

After the closing date all complete and eligible applications will be forwarded to the Woolf Fisher Trust where the Woolf Fisher Trust Scholarships Committee will prepare a shortlist of candidates who will be invited to a personal interview in Auckland.

The announcement of the successful candidates is made immediately after these interviews.

Important considerations:

1. Entry to Cambridge

This is becoming increasingly competitive. The academic quality of applicants is always very high. You should be able to demonstrate exceptional academic strength and a strong enthusiasm for your intended area of research.

You should either have already completed your degree *with First Class Honours*, or expect to do so this year.

If you do not expect to complete your degree until the end of the first semester next year, you should discuss your application with the Secretary of the Woolf Fisher Trust. Please contact Universities NZ for their contact details.

You should have thoroughly researched your intended Cambridge degree and be aware of the closing dates for admission into Cambridge as a graduate student.

2. The age limit

You must be under the age of 30 in the year of application.

For those candidates applying in the 2024 round, you should not have been born on or before **31 December 1994**.

3. Referees should be chosen carefully

In preparing a short list of candidates for interview the Selection Committee has to rely heavily on what referees have to say about the candidate.

Confidential references from three referees are required:

- two referees should be academics under whom you have recently studied at university.
- the third referee should be someone who can write of your other activities (eg. community work, sports).

In choosing your referees resist the temptation to ask someone simply because they have a high profile. There should be a positive relationship between you and your referees; it is important that the referee knows you well enough to write an informed reference.

The on-line application will ask you to use the system to send an email request to your referees; having received the email request referees will be able to add their reference directly to your application.

4. E-mail Address/Mobile phone number

The application will ask you to include an e-mail address and mobile phone number for each of your referees. This ensures that Universities NZ or the Woolf Fisher Trust can contact them if necessary.

5. Your personal statements:

The statements you submit are important to the Committee. Not only does the committee have to consider what your referees say about you, the committee also considers very carefully what you have to say about yourself.

For example, what have been the major influences on your life, what drives you, why you have chosen the path you have, what your plans are for the future – all these are very relevant. Your statement should reflect you.

Avoid writing what you think people want to hear or read - when probing candidates during an interview Selection Committees are very good at separating fact from fiction.

You should prepare one document outlining the following.

- a. Your proposed postgraduate programme, including your topic or area of study. Include details of any potential supervisors with whom you have been in contact and what your discussions with them have entailed. *[Maximum 500 words]*
- b. Describe any previous situations in which you have held leadership roles and the approach you have taken to leadership. How would you see yourself becoming a future leader in your field? *[Maximum 500 words]*
- c. Describe activities in which you are currently engaged outside of your academic work. Why are these important to you? *[Maximum 500 words]*
- d. Describe how you would see yourself making a significant contribution to New Zealand in the future *[Maximum 500 words]*

After you have written your statements, read them critically. An independent review by a third party can often help refine them.

The complete statement should not exceed 2,000 words.

6. Academic transcripts

The on-line application will ask you to use the system to send an email request to your New Zealand university for them to add your academic transcript to your application.

Note: If you are requesting a transcript from the University of Auckland, your request will go to Universities New Zealand who will request your transcript from the University of Auckland directly. Once received UNZ will then attach your transcript to your application.

7. New Zealand Citizenship

Make sure that you include a copy of your birth certificate or other evidence of New Zealand citizenship.