THE ROBERTSON SCHOLARS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Robertson Scholars Leadership Program is a merit-based scholarship at Duke University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in the United States that invests in young leaders who strive to make transformational contributions to society.

The Program was established in 2000 by Julian and the late Josie Robertson and provides an opportunity for selected undergraduate students to take advantage of the resources of two very highly regarded universities.

Although Robertson Scholars enrol in only one of the two institutions, they have access to the classes and resources of both universities and live on the sister campus during the second term of their second year.

Julian Robertson generously offers a scholarship to at least one talented New Zealand student each year.

Purpose

The Robertson Scholars Leadership Program aims to develop promising young leaders while fostering collaboration between Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill.

Robertson Scholars are expected to participate in the Program’s leadership development activities, including regular school year and summer programmes.

Eligibility

Applicants for the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program must:

- be entered for a Year 13 senior school examination (for example NCEA Level 3, Cambridge exams, etc.) or equivalent senior school exam in the year of application.
- be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
- have normally completed their five years of secondary schooling in New Zealand.
Value and tenure

The Program pays full tuition, room and board at Duke University or the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. In addition, support is provided for up to three summer experiences (including internships, research, and community service).

The scholarship is for a four-year undergraduate programme (up to eight semesters), provided scholars maintain good academic performance and conduct themselves in accordance with the expectations of the Program, Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill. Graduate-level degrees are not covered by the Program.

All candidates shortlisted for interview must be prepared (as a result of full prior discussion with their parents or guardians) to accept a scholarship if it is offered to them after the interview. The scholarship must be taken up during the year in which it is awarded.

Applications

Applications must be made using the Universities NZ online application system: https://universitiesnz.communityforce.com/Login.aspx

The closing date is 1 December.

The application form will request and applicants must provide:

- a statement listing their achievements and activities under the following headings: Academic, Positions of Responsibility, Sporting, Cultural, and Community.
- a statement, limited to 300 words, outlining their reasons for wanting to study at Duke University or UNC-Chapel Hill and their proposed course of study:
  - it is expected that applicants will have researched their chosen course of study and will have a firm idea of their degree programme;
  - if applying to both universities applicants must provide a separate statement relevant to each university.
- a statement, limited to 500 words, outlining where they see themselves in ten years' time.
- a statement, limited to 500 words, outlining how they have been a leader and describe what kind of leader they aspire to be
• the names of two referees:
  one referee must be a person able to describe the applicant’s academic achievements, interests, and abilities;
  the other referee must be a person able to comment on the applicant’s participation and achievements in extra-curricular activities.
• proof of their New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency.
• copies of their academic records.

Examination Results

Universities NZ will obtain NCEA and NZ Scholarship examination results from NZQA.

Applicants sitting IB and CIE examinations must forward a copy of their results to Universities NZ as soon as they are received.

  If an applicant’s results for these examinations are not received by 31 January their application will not be considered.

University Applications

All applicants for the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program must apply for admission to Duke and/or UNC-Chapel Hill by the university prescribed deadlines. These applications must include both the Common Application and university-specific supplemental applications.

The final deadlines for these applications are usually in early January. Applicants should determine the exact dates using the links from:
  http://admissions.duke.edu/application/instructions - for Duke University
  http://admissions.unc.edu/apply/ for UNC-Chapel Hill

Applicants who have not completed an application to Duke and/or UNC-Chapel Hill by the relevant deadlines will not be considered for the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program.

If an applicant is not accepted by either university their application for the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program will not be considered.
Financial Aid

Duke University may provide international students with financial aid for home travel and living expenses. This aid is available based on demonstrated financial need only, as determined by the university. To be considered for this financial aid, applicants must ensure that the box is checked in the university application form, notifying the university that the applicant should be considered for financial aid. If the box is not checked in the original university application, then the student will not be considered for financial aid during the entire duration of studies at Duke University, even if their financial situation changes.

There is no financial aid available for international students at UNC-Chapel Hill.

SAT/ACT Tests

It is compulsory for all candidates who wish to be considered for the Program to take either the ’new’ SAT or the ACT test. The scores from these tests must be submitted to Duke/UNC no later than 31 January in the award year. All SAT subject tests required for their Duke/UNC applications must also be completed.

Applicants should research the New Zealand dates and locations of the SAT, SAT subject tests and ACT test to ensure that they are taken in time.

For the SAT, visit here for more information and to register.
For the ACT, visit here for more information and to register.

Reimbursement of Fees

There are fees associated with the Common Application Form and with the SAT/ACT tests. Eligible candidates whose applications are complete may apply to have certain fees reimbursed.

Since it is possible to take the SAT Reasoning test and SAT Subject tests more than once applicants must note that reimbursement is available only for one SAT Reasoning test and two SAT subject tests.
Applicants may also claim once for the Common Application Fee to Duke and once for the Common Application Fee to UNC-Chapel Hill.

Reimbursement will be made by Universities NZ on behalf of the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program.

Selection

A place on the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program will be awarded on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.

Membership of the committee will be:
- Julian Robertson, the donor.
- two nominees of the donor.
- the Convenor of the Universities New Zealand Scholarships Committee or their nominee.
- one nominee of Universities New Zealand.
- one secondary school principal.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview.
No scholarship will be awarded to anyone who has not attended a personal interview with the Selection Committee.

In determining the suitability of a candidate, the Selection Committee will consider the academic ability of the candidate as evidenced by their performance in NCEA Level 3 and NZ Scholarship, or equivalent senior school exams.

This is a leadership scholarship therefore the candidate’s demonstration of leadership experience and potential are important factors which will be considered.
Other qualities such as commitment to community service, collaborative spirit, and behaviour grounded in strong ethical principles will also be considered.

The decision of the Selection Committee is final and no correspondence will be undertaken following the selection meeting.
If, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, no applicant of sufficient merit has applied for the scholarship in a given year, no scholarship will be offered.

A place on the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program is contingent upon admission to Duke University or UNC-Chapel Hill.
Reports

All scholars are required to make regular reports on the progress of their studies to Universities New Zealand.

Scholars are also required to make a final detailed report to Universities New Zealand at the conclusion of the scholarship.

All reports will be circulated to the members of the Selection Committee.

Universities New Zealand may publish any of these reports or make other use of them, as it sees fit.

Publicity

The successful candidate will agree to have their name published and be available for interviews with the media if required.

Suspension or termination

Universities New Zealand/Robertson Scholars Leadership Program administrators may at any time suspend or terminate any scholarship, or require the forfeiture of such proportion of the scholarship as the Selection Committee may determine, if it is satisfied that the scholar is not diligently pursuing the approved program or has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded.

The scholarship shall be terminated and no further payments shall be made if a scholar ceases to pursue the approved programme.

Concessions

The Selection Committee may, if it sees fit, relax or modify the application of any of these regulations in any special circumstances or in order to avoid hardship to any scholar or applicant.