

GIRDLETS' SCHOLARSHIP

The Worshipful Company of Girdlers can trace its foundation to medieval times as a guild or fraternity of craftsmen. While retaining its association with the trades and government of the City of London, it is now concerned with charitable works and the fellowship of its members.

The Company has had an association with New Zealand since 1933 and in 1952 resolved to set aside part of its income for the purpose of a scholarship to enable distinguished New Zealand school students to undertake a degree course at either Oxford or Cambridge. It is now specifically Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Universities NZ administers this scholarship for the Girdlers' Company and a Selection Committee is appointed to nominate one student each year. This nomination is then forwarded to the Girdlers' Company and to Corpus Christi College for their confirmation.

The value of the award is up to £35,000 per annum which is intended to cover university and college fees, and some living expenses¹ (but not flights).

The maximum tenure of the award is three or four years depending on the length of the course. Degrees in medicine are not eligible for the scholarship.

During their residence at Cambridge, the Scholars' personal wellbeing and academic progress will be monitored by members of the Girdlers' Company through visits each term to Corpus Christi, by discussions with the Senior Tutor and other members of the Faculty and through meetings at Girdlers' Hall in London at such times as the Scholars are invited to attend various functions hosted there.

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide New Zealand students who have distinguished themselves in their school in New Zealand with the benefit of residence within Cambridge University, not only to take an honours degree but to broaden their outlook by taking advantage of their experience as undergraduates at Corpus Christi College and Cambridge University.

As well as achieving academic qualifications, special consideration will be given to the all-round qualities of the candidates and the contribution that he or she might make in the future to developments in New Zealand.

¹ Living expenses are often referred to as 'maintenance' costs and the funds offered in support as the 'maintenance grant'.

The Company intends that, after completion of their studies, Scholars will use their education in ways that are beneficial to New Zealand.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the Girdlers' Scholarship an applicant must:

1. be a New Zealand citizen, one of whose parents must have been a New Zealand citizen at the time of the applicant's birth.
2. have completed no fewer than 8 years of schooling in New Zealand and be completing Year 13 at a New Zealand school in the year of application.
3. be a candidate for at least one Year 13 senior school examination: NCEA Level 3, New Zealand Scholarship, CIE A levels, or International Baccalaureate.

There are no restrictions on the religious beliefs, ethnicity or gender of the applicants.

Applications

Applications must be made using the Universities NZ online scholarship application system: <https://universitiesnz.communityforce.com/>

An application for the Girdlers' Scholarship must be submitted electronically by the closing date if it is to be considered by the Girdlers' Scholarship Selection Committee.

The closing date is **1 December**.

It is not possible to submit an application after this date.

The on-line application will request and applicants must provide:

1. proof of their New Zealand citizenship.
2. proof that at least one of their parents was a New Zealand citizen at the time of the applicant's birth.
3. information on their interests, activities and plans, specifically:
 - a. a statement of their general interests and activities.
 - b. a list of their sporting, cultural and community activities and achievements.
 - c. a description of their future career plans.

4. a statement which explains their reasons for wishing to study at Cambridge and the benefits that may accrue to New Zealand as a result.
 - applicants are expected to have researched the options for their chosen field of study and to have a definite choice of degree programme included as part of their application.
5. the names of people who have been asked to provide references in support of the applicant.
6. any other information that the Selection Committee may request.

Referees / References

In the on-line application applicants must generate requests for three references:

1. from their Principal or Head Teacher.
2. from someone who can comment on their academic achievements and abilities.
3. from someone other than a staff member at their school who can comment on their general character and leadership.

Year 13 Examination Results

NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship

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

International Baccalaureate and Cambridge International Examinations

Applicants who have sat International Baccalaureate (IB) or Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) must send copies of their results to Universities NZ as soon as they are received.

If an applicant's results for these examinations are not received by Universities NZ **by 25 January** their application for the Girdlers' Scholarship will not be considered.

Scholar Selection

Universities NZ will review each application to ensure it is complete and that the applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria. All eligible and complete applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee to determine a short list of candidates who will be invited to an interview in Wellington.

The short list will be available in February. The interviews will take place in March. No scholarship will be awarded to anyone who has not attended in person an interview with the Selection Committee.

The successful candidate will be selected following assessment by the committee after consideration of the following evidence:

1. academic achievement during the course of schooling sufficient to satisfy the rigorous standards required by Cambridge University.
2. the participation by the candidate in a wide range of non-academic activities including sporting, cultural and community-related activities.
3. such indication as the candidate may give as to how the award of the Scholarship may enable them to contribute to the future development of New Zealand.

Final approval of the candidate selected by the Selection Committee will be sought from Corpus Christi College and from the Girdlers' Company before the scholarship can be confirmed.

Decisions made from the selection process and interviews are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Applying to Cambridge

Applicants for the Girdlers' Scholarship must note the following:

1. Applicants need not apply separately to the University of Cambridge. Once confirmed the scholar is accepted by Corpus Christi College.
2. An applicant who already holds an offer from Corpus Christi College and meets the other eligibility criteria may apply for the Girdlers' Scholarship.
3. A direct application in their own right to Corpus Christi College which is unsuccessful will make the applicant ineligible for consideration for the Girdlers' Scholarship.
4. Any direct application in their own right to *another* Cambridge college (irrespective of the outcome) will make the applicant ineligible for consideration for the Girdlers' Scholarship.

Undergraduate Study at Cambridge

Applicants for the Girdlers' Scholarship should ensure that they meet any essential subject requirements stipulated for the course for which they are applying.

Applicants should refer to the course information and entry requirements on the University website: <http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses>

Corpus Christi College

The College's usual entrance requirements are:

- Cambridge International Exams (CIE) A level:
 - A*AA (arts and humanities courses, including psychology)
 - A*A*A (sciences, including economics)
- National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA):
 - University Entrance standard achieved with NCEA Level 3 (80 credits) with a majority of Merits/Excellences in the subjects to be studied at Cambridge.
 - The overall NCEA Level 3 achievement is to be endorsed with Excellence.

In addition, achievement of New Zealand Scholarship in at least two of the most relevant subjects is highly desirable.

- International Baccalaureate (IB):
40-41 points overall, including bonus points, and 7, 7, 6 in Higher Level subjects, including 7 in the subject to be studied at Cambridge.

Publicity

Scholars must agree to have their name and image published and to be available for interviews with the media if required.