

Background

In 1997 the Trustees of the New Zealand Law Foundation decided to mark the centenary of the admission of Ethel Benjamin as the first woman barrister and solicitor, so they established this scholarship as a merit based award to outstanding women legal scholars.

Purpose

To support post graduate research in law that encompasses the wider objectives of the New Zealand Law Foundation, in particular research that will protect and promote the interests of the public in relation to legal matters in New Zealand.

Eligibility

A scholarship may be awarded to any woman scholar who is:

- a) A New Zealand citizen or permanent resident; and
- b) The holder of a New Zealand university law degree. (Unless there are exceptional circumstances the award would normally be made to candidates who have gained the qualifying degree within the past five years); and
- c) Accepted into a post graduate course in law at either a New Zealand or an overseas university acceptable to the Selection Committee.

Value

Scholarships may be awarded for:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Category A: study at a NZ university | (up to \$20,000); or |
| Category B: study at an overseas university | (up to \$50,000) |

Up to three scholarships may be awarded in any given year. Extra funds may be made available by the Foundation on the recommendation of the Selection Committee.

Tenure

Scholarships are usually awarded for one year.

Co-Tenure

The Scholarship may be held with any other bursary, scholarship, prize or fellowship unless the conditions of the other award(s) preclude it and provided that the grantors of the other scholarship(s) or prize(s) recognise the right and ability of the Foundation to publicise the successful scholar as a New Zealand Law Foundation Ethel Benjamin Scholarship winner for the particular year.



Ethel Benjamin
First Woman Admitted to the
Bar in New Zealand

Payment

Payments shall be made in such manner and on such conditions as shall be determined by Universities New Zealand. (Usually half the funds payable into a New Zealand bank account at the beginning of the study period, with the balance payable after six months, subject to satisfactory progress reports from the scholar's supervisor).

Conditions of emolument

May be held on such terms and conditions as the Selection Committee see fit.

Suspension or termination

The Selection Committee may at any time suspend or terminate any scholarship or forfeit such proportion of the scholarship emolument as it may determine, if it is satisfied that the scholar is not diligently pursuing the programme of research or advanced study or has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded.

Undertakings

The scholar must undertake to keep the Foundation informed at all times of progress and of any changes to study programmes with an interim report half way through the course and a final report within one month of conclusion of studies.

Foundation may request report

The Foundation or an administrative agent on behalf of the Foundation may at any time during the course of study request a progress report from the scholar's supervisor or Head of Department.

Power to vary regulations

The Selection Committee may, if it thinks fit, relax or modify the application of any of these regulations in any special circumstances.

Applications

Candidates should complete an application using the Universities New Zealand on-line scholarship application website: <https://universitiesnz.communityforce.com>

The closing date by which applications must be complete, with references included, and submitted through the on-line website, is 1st March in the year for which the scholarship is awarded and in which it will be taken up.

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

- a) the applicant's academic record;
- b) a statement of the proposed programme of research or advanced study;
- c) proof of New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency;
- d) an example of legal writing not exceeding 10,000 words (eg essays, opinions, legal articles, chapter of thesis), accompanied by an abstract to provide information on the context of the original;
- e) full particulars of any other bursaries, scholarships, prizes or fellowships which the applicant has applied for, or has been awarded;
- f) a budget proposal;
- g) names and addresses of two referees whom the applicant will request to provide references;
- h) a statement outlining what New Zealand society will gain by the Foundation supporting the applicant's personal advancement through this scholarship;

- i) a brief resume (no more than two pages) including work history and extracurricular activities; and
- j) a good quality photograph – head and shoulders view. *[Note that this is optional and not a required part of your application but if you are successful, it will be used for publicity purposes.]*

Applicants will use the Universities NZ on-line application form to request an academic transcript from the New Zealand university from where they obtained their qualifying degree.

Note: Any grant of a scholarship will be conditional upon the successful applicant confirming enrolment for the approved course of study and at the approved university specified in her application. However, the Selection Committee may at its discretion approve an alternative course of study or an alternative educational institution in circumstances where the first preference has not resulted in an acceptance.

Selection

The Selection Committee will invite shortlisted candidates for an interview in late April/May each year. All reasonable expenses will be met by the New Zealand Law Foundation.

In selecting the successful candidate(s) the Selection Committee will have regard to (among other things) scholastic ability, the nature of the intended research, its compatibility with the Foundation's wider objectives, and the potential of the applicant to make a significant legal contribution to the New Zealand community in the future.

The Selection Committee's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

Constitution of Selection Committee

The award of every New Zealand Law Foundation Ethel Benjamin Scholarship shall be made by the Selection Committee constituted as follows:

- a) Two Trustees of the New Zealand Law Foundation, or nominees;
- b) Two persons of academic distinction in law appointed by Universities New Zealand, preferably with one being a professor of law.