

Sir Robert Jones Refugee Women's Scholarship Regulations

1. Purpose

Sir Robert Jones established this scholarship in 2015 to redress the balance in equity faced by women who arrive in New Zealand as refugees and who aspire to participate in tertiary level study.

It enables the recipients to graduate from a New Zealand university or Te Pūkenga or other approved tertiary institution, without significant student debt. The fund will assist successful applicants to complete an undergraduate degree in science, medicine, education, nursing or health-related fields, engineering, humanities, or other approved fields.

Note: Support for graduate degrees will be considered on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the selection panel. Interested candidates should email scholarships-cf@universitiesna.zc.nz in the first instance.

The scholarships are awarded annually. Applications are invited from school leavers and candidates already enrolled in undergraduate tertiary-level academic programmes of study.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be:

- 2.1 a woman who arrived in New Zealand as a refugee or asylum seeker
- 2.2 aged 17-26 in the year of application
- 2.3 a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident who is ordinarily resident in New Zealand
- 2.4 able to demonstrate the academic ability required to complete their chosen programme of study
- 2.5 eligible to receive a Student Allowance.

3. Selection Criteria

In making the award the selection committee will consider each candidate's application as it relates to the following criteria:

- 3.1 barriers to entering and staying in tertiary education including personal and financial hardships
- 3.2 academic potential and determination to succeed
- 3.3 a clear academic pathway with realistic and achievable goals
- 3.4 future focus and resilience
- 3.5 priority will be given to those most in need of support

4. Applications

Universities New Zealand (UNZ) facilitates and administers the application process.

Applications are only accepted via the online application form in Community Force.

Applications close at 11:50pm on 13 July.

4.1 As part of the application candidates will be asked to:

- 4.1.1 nominate two referees, one of which must be able to comment on academic ability, and one must be able to comment on character.
- 4.1.2 supply proof of permanent residency via refugee background status, most commonly the Immigration New Zealand (INZ) issued Certificate of Identity or INZ letter which confirms date of birth, Refugee status and Permanent Residency
- 4.1.3 provide academic records for the last 2.5 years of study, including study in the academic year of application. This may be a combination of off-shore learning, English Language, university foundation or preparation studies, NCEA or university results to date.
- 4.1.4 a letter from StudyLink confirming eligibility for Student Allowance including the weekly amount.

4.2 Write or upload several paragraphs about:

- 4.2.1 your family background
- 4.2.2 your pathway to New Zealand
- 4.2.3 your education to date
- 4.2.4 your educational goals
- 4.2.5 your aspirations for the future
- 4.2.6 your living circumstances and responsibilities
- 4.2.7 the barriers you face to equal participation in tertiary education

5. Selection Committee

The scholarship is awarded by a Selection Committee normally consisting of:

- 5.1 At least one member of the Robert Jones Holdings (RJH) Executive, who will be the committee Chair, and
- 5.2 Two members nominated by Refugees As Survivors NZ (RASNZ)

The Selection Committee and in some cases a representative of the relevant University may invite shortlisted applicants to attend an interview.

6. Tenure

6.1 The tenure of the scholarship will be determined by the selection committee based on the circumstances of each scholar.

- 6.1.1 the scholarship must be taken up in the year for which it was offered and may not be deferred to a later year.
- 6.1.2 renewal of the Scholarship is conditional upon the scholar passing all courses during the tenure of the scholarship.

- 6.1.3 the scholarship is for full-time study such that the recipient may complete their degree in the minimum time stipulated for that degree (normally three years, and on occasion four years).

6.2 Co-tenure

The scholarship may not be held in conjunction with any other fee scholarship. The recipient may hold additional non-tuition fee-based scholarships with the approval of the Chair of the selection committee.

6.3 Deferral of Study

The scholarship may not be deferred nor suspended during the tenure, except under special circumstances and with approval from the Chair of the selection committee.

6.4 Suspension and Termination.

- 6.4.1 The funder may at any time suspend or terminate the Refugee Women's Scholarship or require the forfeiture of such proportion of the scholarship as RJH may determine, if it is not satisfied that the recipient is diligently pursuing the approved programme or if the recipient has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions on which the scholarship was awarded.
- 6.4.2 If the scholar ceases enrolment or takes leave of absence, other than approved annual leave, the scholarship may cease or be suspended as appropriate.

6.5 Reports

Scholars must supply a satisfactory report and an academic transcript at the end of each year throughout the tenure of the scholarship, as detailed in the offer letter.

7. Value

7.1 The number and value of scholarships will be determined annually by the funder.

- 7.1.1 The scholarship will cover the full cost of tuition fees for full-time study from point of award through to degree completion. 7.1.1 is subject to 7.1.2.
- 7.1.2 The total value of the scholarship awarded will be full tuition fees (including the Compulsory Student Services Fee) per year until degree completion (up to 4 years).
- 7.1.3 The scholarship will cover university catered hall of residence accommodation for two years if the student is required to attend a tertiary institution outside their usual New Zealand hometown.

8. Publicity, media and presentations

Recipients consent to their information being shared on RASNZ communication platforms for the purpose of promoting the scholarship programme and sharing their success stories.