Robin Oliver Tax Policy Scholarship

Description

The Scholarship was established in 2019 and is funded by the Tax Policy Charitable Trust, in recognition of Robin Oliver, a former Inland Revenue Deputy Commissioner and expert on the New Zealand tax system.

The intention of the Scholarship is to encourage and support a student to undertake postgraduate study in the area of tax law at the University of Auckland.

Selection process

- Application is made to the Scholarships Office
- A Selection Committee assesses the applications
- The Scholarship is awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of the Selection Committee

Regulations

1. The Scholarship will be known as the Robin Oliver Tax Policy Scholarship.
2. One Scholarship will be awarded annually, for a period of up to one year and will be of the value of up to $5,000. Payments and tenure will be pro-rated for part-time students.
3. To be eligible for Scholarship consideration, applicants must be i) a citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand, ii) currently enrolled in the fourth year of a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or Bachelor of Laws (Honours), or Stage III of a Bachelor of Commerce or a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) majoring in Commercial Law; or a graduate eligible for enrolment in the Master of Taxation Studies or Master of Laws (LLM) and iii) intending to enrol in postgraduate study related to tax law in the following year. A grade point average (GPA) or grade point equivalent (GPE) of 6.00 (5.50 for Māori and Pacific candidates) is required for Scholarship consideration.
4. The basis of selection will be academic merit, a 1,000 word essay briefly outlining a challenge facing New Zealand’s tax system and a potential solution, and a personal statement outlining how the applicant meets the criteria for the Scholarship and the potential receiving the Scholarship could have on their studies. Consideration will be given to the applicant’s plans for postgraduate study and career aspirations relating to the area of tax law (see Note I).
The Scholarship will be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Dean of the Faculty of Law (or nominee), one member of Academic Staff from the Faculty of Law nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of Law, and one representative of the Tax Policy Charitable Trust.

To be paid the Scholarship, the awardee must be enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Tax Law.

Payment will be made in one lump sum in Semester One, as soon as is practical after confirmation of the awardee’s enrolment, that is, after the final date on which a student may add or delete courses without incurring a late enrolment fee.

The Scholarship may be held concurrently with any other scholarship, award or grant as long as the Regulations for that scholarship, award or grant permit and the University of Auckland Council is informed and approves. It is the responsibility of the awardee to declare to the Scholarships Office all other scholarships, awards and grant funding received and for which the awardee receives payment while also in payment for this Scholarship.

The University of Auckland Council, in consultation with the donor, has the power to terminate or suspend a Scholarship if it receives a report of unsatisfactory progress of a Scholar from the Associate Dean (International and Postgraduate) of the Faculty of Law.

The University of Auckland Council is not obliged to make an award if it is determined there is no candidate that meets the criteria and/or no candidate of sufficient merit.

The University of Auckland can amend or vary these Regulations, in consultation with the donor, provided that there is no departure from the main purpose of the Scholarship.

Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 30 September in the year preceding the award.

Notes [I] – [V] below are deemed to be Regulations.

Notes

I. For the purposes of this Scholarship, academic merit for students enrolled in undergraduate study will be assessed as a Scholarships GPA/GPE obtained over the applicant’s most recent two years of full-time graded study (or equivalent). Academic merit for students enrolled in a postgraduate programme will be assessed as the GPA/GPE calculated over the most recent qualifying programme (see Note II).

II. The most recent qualifying programme is defined as the most recently completed programme of study that qualifies the applicant for the postgraduate programme for which they are applying. Where the qualifying programme is a conjoint programme the GPA/GPE will be calculated over the relevant component of the conjoint programme. The maximum approved exchange or transfer credit that can be excluded from the GPA/GPE calculation for the qualifying programme is 60 points. Where the most recently completed programme is a Transitional Certificate, the qualifying programme is the Transitional Certificate and the most recently completed prior degree.

III. Students holding this Scholarship may be required to participate in promotional activities, including profiles on the Tax Policy Charitable Trust website.

IV. Payments under the terms of this Scholarship remain tax-free as long as they are used directly for the payment of costs associated with an awardees programme of study and to assist the awardee with living costs while studying. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the termination of the Scholarship.

V. Awardees will be required to give undertakings that they will comply with the regulations for the Scholarship and will notify the Scholarships Office of any change in their enrolment or funding status. The University of Auckland may, in the event that it can be established that an awardee is not complying with these regulations, terminate the Scholarship and require repayment of the funds received.