



The University of Otago Blues and Golds Awards

First awarded in 1908, the University of Otago Blues continue to be highly prized as a recognition of outstanding student achievement.

Otago was the first New Zealand University to adopt the traditional English university Blues system, inspired by the prestigious sporting traditions of Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The term “Blue” originated from the light blue colours worn by Cambridge rowers and the dark blue hues of the Oxford crews competing in their annual boat race on the River Thames.

Originally established to recognise exceptional sporting achievement, the awards programme has evolved over time to also celebrate excellence in the arts, culture, leadership, service, and community contribution through the addition of the Golds and other major awards categories.

The University of Otago Blues and Golds Awards remain among the highest honours that can be bestowed upon students during their time at Otago. The awards recognise students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement and dedication within their chosen field at a regional, national, or international level.

The Blues and Golds Awards celebrate the incredible things Otago students achieve both on and beyond campus by representing New Zealand on the world stage, creating award-winning artistic work, contributing to student culture, supporting their communities, or achieving excellence within their chosen discipline.

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General Awards Information

Eligibility: To be eligible for a Blues or Golds Award, nominees must:

- Be a student enrolled at the University of Otago during the nomination period;
- Have achieved the relevant standard of excellence during the 12-month period preceding the awards cycle;
- Meet any additional eligibility requirements relevant to the award category.
- Certain awards are regarded as lifetime recognition awards and are not eligible to be awarded multiple times to the same individual.

Nominations:

- Nominations must be submitted using the prescribed nomination form.
- Nominations may be submitted by individuals, clubs, staff, peers, organisations, or community members.
- Self-nominations are permitted.
- Nominations must include sufficient supporting evidence for assessment.
- Supporting evidence may include:
 - representative selections;
 - rankings;
 - competition results;
 - recordings;
 - reviews;
 - programmes;
 - publications;
 - awards;
 - exhibition catalogues;
 - media coverage;
 - or other evidence of achievement.
- The panel may request additional information where required.
- Late nominations may not be considered.

General Assessment Principles: The Awards Panel will consider:

- The level and significance of achievement;
- The competitiveness and prestige of the pathway, event, selection, or recognition;
- The nominee's contribution to their field and/or wider community;
- Character, conduct, and sportsmanship/professionalism where relevant;
- The standard of achievement within the discipline;
- The opportunities available within the discipline;
- Club growth and development;
- New or existing initiatives and/or works
- The nominee's involvement within the University context where applicable.

Meeting the listed examples or guidelines does not automatically guarantee an award. All nominations will be considered on their individual merits. Disciplines or achievements not specifically listed may still be considered where nominees demonstrate achievement at an equivalent standard.

The Award Categories

University of Otago 'Blues' Award

The Blues Awards for sporting excellence are a long standing tradition that have been awarded at the University of Otago since 1908 - these are the greatest accolade that can be awarded to those University of Otago students that excel in their chosen sporting field.

University of Otago ‘Golds’ Award

The Golds Awards are the highest accolade that the University of Otago can bestow on those University of Otago students involved in the cultural sphere. They reward excellence and exceptional achievement in the chosen artistic or cultural field.

University of Otago ‘Sportsperson of the Year’ Award University of Otago ‘Highly Commended Sportsperson of the Year’ Award

These awards recognise the high performance, service and example in their chosen field, including expressing the ideals of true sportsmanship.

University of Otago ‘Māori Sportsperson of the Year’ Award

This Taonga, first awarded in 2000, recognises the most outstanding Māori Sportsperson at the University of Otago. This person best represents Māori through his or her performances in top-level sport.

University of Otago ‘Outstanding Contribution to Arts and Culture’ Award

Honours an individual who exemplify dedication in their chosen field, embodying the values of true commitment and service to the arts and culture community. Nominees must present compelling evidence of their exceptional contributions and the substantial positive impact of their work.

OUSA ‘Silver Service’ Award

OUSA awards a Silver Service Award to University of Otago students and members of its affiliated Clubs to recognise the exceptional contributions made by these people. This may involve leadership, volunteering, administration, coaching, managing and other contributions considered worthy by the Panel.

OUSA ‘Coach of the Year’ Award

Introduced in 2013, to recognise the significant input and achievements of coaches in the community. This Award is available to any coach coaching an OUSA Affiliated Club or any University of Otago student coaching anywhere in the country.

OUSA ‘Sports Club of the Year’ Award

Recognising excellence in the management, administration, participation, development, culture, and promotion from an OUSA Affiliated Sports Club. Providing positive community awareness and community engagement.

OUSA ‘Society of the Year’ Award

Recognising excellence in the management, administration, engagement, contribution and promotion of any OUSA Affiliated Society. Providing positive community awareness and engagement.

OUSA ‘Cultural Society of the Year’ Award

Recognises excellence in the leadership, administration engagement, contribution and promotion of any OUSA Affiliated Cultural Club or Society. Providing positive community awareness and engagement. This award is for International Cultural Clubs only.

‘Outstanding Member of the University Community’ Award

This award highlights a student who has been an integral part of the University of Otago community and deserves recognition. For example, a student who has shown impressive leadership skills to benefit the student body or has been an exceptional volunteer at university or OUSA events.

‘Outstanding Member of the Dunedin Community’ Award

Recognising a student with an altruistic spirit who has significantly contributed to the wider local community during their time in Dunedin. A student who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in either a community project, volunteer work, participating in environmental conservation efforts, mentoring youth, or in their support for local charities and non-profit organizations.

SPORTING BLUES CRITERIA

The Blues Awards recognise students who have demonstrated exceptional sporting achievement at an elite level.

Typically, this includes:

- national or international representation;
- podium or finalist placings at major championships;
- participation in elite competitions;
- selection into recognised high-performance pathways;
- or equivalent achievement within their chosen sport.

The following guidelines are intended to provide examples of the level of achievement typically recognised by the Panel. For sports that do not immediately fit the standards of achievement, (i.e. the sport is not currently included in this list of guidelines) the current Panel can determine the equivalent standard.

Athletics

Must have achieved, been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Selection for Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, IAAF World Championships, World University Games, International Association of Ultrarunners Championships, or equivalent;
- Top 3 placing at New Zealand Senior Championships;

Aerobic Gymnastics / Competitive Aerobics

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Selected to represent New Zealand in an International event, World Championships, National Squad
- A top 3 placing in the GymSports New Zealand National Championships

Badminton

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Selection for a New Zealand representative team;
- Finalist or semi-finalist at National Championships;
- Selection for national finals or elite representative competition (Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championship, Wisden Cup (Division 1) or Slazenger Cup (Division 2)
- Selected to attend the Badminton New Zealand (BNZ) NZ Tour finals
- Competed in, and, made it to the final four/semi-final round in the BNZ NZ National Championships

Basketball

Students will have achieved at least one of the following:

- Selection for Tall Blacks, Tall Ferns, Junior Tall Blacks/Tall Ferns, Māori Basketball Representative teams, NZ Senior Under 20 Team or equivalent;
- A member of a National League team;

Body Building

Must finish in the top 3 at either:

- IFBB (International Federation of Body Building) Nationals
- NABBA (National Amateur Body Building Association) Nationals

Bowls (Indoor and Lawn)

Students will have achieved at least one of the following:

- Selection to represent NZ for Commonwealth Games, World Bowls Championships, World Cup, Asia Pacific Championships, International Tests - Open or Under 25, Trans-Tasman Test
- Top 3 at a national championships.

Canoe and Kayak (Flatwater Sprint Racing, Marathon Racing and SurfSki Ocean Racing)

Students will have achieved at least one of the following:

- Selection to represent NZ for Olympic Games, World Championships/Cup or a New Zealand representative team (age group or senior)
- New Zealand National Championship (singles: top 6 placing/doubles: top 4 placing)*
*Distance for Women: 200m/500m
*Distance for Men: 1000m/200m

Canoe Polo

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- New Zealand - Paddle Blacks or Paddle Ferns
- National "A Grade" representative team (age group or senior)

Cricket

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- New Zealand - Black Caps or White Ferns
- New Zealand Under-19, including age groups teams and 'A' teams
- Otago or other New Zealand Province

Cycling (Road, Track, Mountain Biking and BMX)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Representing NZ at the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championship or equivalent;
- New Zealand Championship - Elite Category (Medallist)

Dance (Competitive)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- World Championship
- Performing Arts Competitions Association of New Zealand - top 3
- New Zealand Championship - placing
- New Zealand Dance Awards - placing

Duathlon

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Representing NZ for Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championship, or equivalent;
- World Cup (top 20 placing)
- World Age Group Championship (top 10 placing)
- Oceania Championship (top 10 placing)
- New Zealand Duathlon (top 3 placing)

Equestrian (Dressage, Eventing, Endurance & CTR, Jumping & Show, Para Equestrian)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Selection in a New Zealand representative to compete in an international event (age group or senior).
- New Zealand Young Rider Team
- National Championship placing or title

Football/Soccer

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- New Zealand - All Whites or Football Ferns
- Māori Football Representative
- New Zealand Province - above 17 years

Futsal

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- New Zealand - Futsal Whites or Futsal Ferns
- New Zealand Province - above 17 years
- Youth Futsal Championship

Handball

Must have been selected for one of the following:

- New Zealand - National Team
- New Zealand - National Junior or Youth - above 17 years

Hockey

Must have been selected for one of the following:

- New Zealand - Black Sticks Women & Men
- New Zealand Māori Hockey
- New Zealand - Junior Black Sticks (Under 21)
- Otago - Southern National Hockey League

Ice Hockey

Must have been selected for one of the following:

- New Zealand - Ice Blacks or Ice Ferns
- New Zealand - Under 20
- Otago - Phoenix Thunder

Ice Figure Skating

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Qualified at the NZ Ice Figure Skating Championships
- International Skating Union (ISU) recognised international competition
- World Championships Representing New Zealand
- Australian National Championships at Senior level
- Four Seasons or a Senior Grand Prix event

Multisport

Must have been placed in the Top 3 in their category in one of the:

- Coast to Coast 1 Day World Championships
- Australasian Multisport Championship
- World Adventure Racing Series Championship
- New Zealand Multisport Elite Championships (K-Bar)
- Godzone Adventure Race

Netball

Must have been selected for one of the following:

- NZ A Team+, Silver Ferns & Development Squad, NZ U21 team, Men's and Mixed
- Otago - Southern Steel & Southern Steel Under 21 (ANZ Premiership)

Powerlifting

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Commonwealth Games
 - Brown Grade or above - men or women
 - Placed at a National Competition
 - Reached Bronze Grade or better for their bodyweight class*
- *makes competitor eligible for selection for World Junior Championships

Rowing (Individual)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Selection in a New Zealand representative team (age group, development, NZ University teams or senior).
- Representing NZ for Olympic Games, FISA World Rowing Championships, Trans-Tasman Rowing Championship or equivalent
- New Zealand - Senior Rowing, Under 21, Universities Squads - men's or women's
- New Zealand National Rowing Championships - Premier, Senior, Club, Novice, Age Group
- New Zealand Under 21 Youth Cup

Rugby Union/League/Sevens

Students must have achieved at least one of the following:

- Selection in a New Zealand representative team (age group or senior). All Blacks, Black Ferns, All Black Sevens, Black Ferns Sevens, Māori All Blacks, New Zealand Under 20
- A member of the provincial senior representative team;
- A member of a Super rugby franchise team (senior)
- Selection in a NZ development team

Shooting

Students must have achieved at least one of the following:

- A top 3 placing in the National Championships;
- Selection in a New Zealand representative team (age group or senior).

Snow Sports

Athletes must have achieved at least one of the following:

- A top 3 placing in the National Championships;
- Competed for New Zealand in an International event.
- A top 3 placing in either;
- Freeride qualifier as part of the winter games; or
- Alpine: Australia/New Zealand Cup

Squash

Must have been selected or competed in one of the following:

- Commonwealth Games
- PSA World Squash Championships
- B1 Grade - New Zealand national grading list
- Otago Districts - National Squash Teams Event
- Dunedin Premier League or equivalent

Surf Life Saving (ocean, beach and pool)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Lifesaving World Championships
- New Zealand National Championships - placing top 3 in individual events - men's or women's
- New Zealand National Championships - gold medal in team events - men's or women's
- Surf Life Saving New Zealand - High Performance Squad

Swimming

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Representing NZ at the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships, Oceania Swimming Championships, Pan Pacific Games or equivalent
- World Masters Swimming Championships - top 3
- New Zealand Open or Age Group Championships
- South Island Championships

- Medal at NZ Open or Summer Short Course Champs

Table Tennis

Students must have achieved at least one of the following:

- A top 3 placing in the National Championships; or
- Selection for a New Zealand representative team (senior).

Taekwon-do

Students must have achieved at least one of the following:

- Selection for a NZ team to either a World or International Taekwondo Federation (WTF) (ITF) competition;
- Achieve a top four placing at a WTF/ITF competition; or
- WTF/ITF Athlete Ranking.

Tennis

Students must have achieved at least one of the following:

- Selection in a New Zealand representative team
- A ranking in the top 10 seniors for NZ

Triathlon

Students must have achieved at least one of the following:

- Representing NZ at the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships Elite, World Series Championship or equivalent
- World Age Group Championship - top 10
- World Cup - top 20
- Oceania Championship - top 10
- New Zealand Triathlon - top 3 placing

Underwater Hockey

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- World Championship, Southern Hemisphere Championship, Trans-Tasman Championship or equivalent
- Southern Regional Team - Inter-Zone Championship

Volleyball (indoor, beach)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Commonwealth Games
- New Zealand - Volleyball Blacks, Volleyferns, Beach Blacks, BeachFerns
- New Zealand - Junior Mens and Women's Indoor
- New Zealand - 'A' Mens, Women's, Under 19, Youth Commonwealth Games
- Volleyball New Zealand Club Championships - Gold Medallist

Weightlifting (snatch, clean and jerk)

Must have been selected for or competed in one of the following:

- Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games, International Weightlifting Federation World Championships, Oceania Masters Championships, New Zealand Masters Championships or equivalent
- South Island/North Island Championships – top 3
- Must be B Grade or better for bodyweight class

Yachting (board sailing/paddle boarding)

Must have achieved at least one of the following:

- Top 5 placing at a National Championship event
- A top 5 New Zealand ranking in their class
- Selection in a New Zealand representative team (age group, development or senior)

ARTS GOLDS CRITERIA

The Golds Awards recognise students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement and excellence within artistic, creative, and cultural fields.

Golds are intended to recognise students performing at an outstanding level within their chosen discipline, typically through:

- national or international recognition;
- competitive selection;
- professional showcasing;
- publication;
- exhibition;
- performance;
- festival selection;
- representative opportunities;
- development programmes;
- or equivalent achievement indicators.

Unlike sporting awards, where achievement may often be measured through defined competition results or representative selection, arts and cultural achievement can follow a broad range of pathways.

The following guidelines are intended to provide examples of the level and types of achievement typically recognised by the panel. Achievement outside of the examples may still be considered where nominees demonstrate excellence at an equivalent standard.

Classical Music Performers (instrumentals and solo singers)

Immediate qualifications are:

- Finalist in the National Concerto Competition (instrumentalists)
- Finalist in the Lexus Song Quest (singers)

Other participations to make a portfolio for consideration:

- Soloist in premier national or local concerts - leading recognised promoters in leading New Zealand venues
- Regular participation in the University of Otago Music Department public concert series
- Top 3 prize winner in New Zealand Aria Competition (classical singers) and in instrumental competition recital classes
- Current musician of the National Youth Orchestra
- Current member of the New Zealand Youth Choir

Classical conductor (instrumental or choral)

Must have achieved at least one of the following:

- Professional recognition as conductor in a premier concert situation
- Regular conducting position of local professional group

Classical composer

Must have achieved at least one of the following:

- Prize-winner in recognised composition competitions
- Composition(s) performed in concerts promoted by recognised professional concert agencies

Dance

Students will have demonstrated excellence in at least one of the following:

- Acceptance into a competitive development programme, residency, workshop, or internship;
- Significant role in a nationally recognised or professionally staged production;
- Award or official selection within a recognised dance, arts, or festival;
- Creation or choreography of original work presented publicly at a significant level.

Debating & Oration

Students will have demonstrated excellence in at least one of the following:

- Selection for national representative debating or oration team;
- Finalist or placing in recognised national or international competitions;
- Individual speaker awards or recognition at national or international level;
- Participation in prestigious international debating competitions or tournaments.

Digital Arts & Interactive Media

Including animation, game design, multimedia, digital illustration, software-based arts, and interactive media.

Students will have demonstrated excellence in at least one of the following:

- Finalist or recipient of a national or international digital arts or game design award;
- Selection for exhibition, showcase, or screening at a recognised festival or event;
- Development of commercially released or publicly recognised creative digital work;
- Selection into a competitive national or international development programme;
- Significant contribution to a recognised collaborative digital arts project.

Film & Media

Students will have demonstrated excellence in at least one of the following:

- Official selection into a recognised national or international film festival or competition;
- Award or finalist recognition at a recognised film, media, or short film festival;
- Significant creative role in selected or professionally produced work;
- National broadcast, screening, publication, or distribution of creative work;
- Selection into a competitive film or media development programme.

Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- New Zealand International Film Festival;
- Doc Edge;
- Show Me Shorts;
- youth or international short film festivals.

Literature, Writing & Creative Media

Including creative writing, scriptwriting, poetry, publishing, and spoken word.

Students will have demonstrated excellence in at least one of the following:

- Publication in a recognised literary journal, anthology, media platform, or publication;
- Finalist or recipient of a recognised national or international writing award or competition;
- Selection for a recognised writers festival, literary showcase, residency, or development opportunity;
- Public presentation or performance of original work at a recognised event or festival;
- Significant contribution to published or professionally developed creative work;

Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Landfall Tauraka;
- Starling;
- New Zealand Young Writers Festival;

Music (non-classical)

Students will have demonstrated excellence in at least one of the following:

- Membership of a recognised national youth or representative ensemble;
- Finalist or recipient of a recognised national or international music competition or award;
- Significant public performance at national level or within a recognised festival or tour;
- Composition or original work commissioned, recorded, or publicly performed at a significant level;
- National broadcast, release, or recognition of original musical work;

- Selection into a prestigious music development programme or residency.

Performing Arts - Theatre & Performance

Including acting, directing, producing, stage management, comedy, devised performance, and technical production. Students will have demonstrated excellence in at least one of the following:

- Significant role in a nationally recognised or professionally staged production;
- Award or finalist recognition at a recognised theatre, comedy, arts, or festival;
- Creation, direction, production, or performance of original work presented publicly at a significant level;
- Selection into a competitive theatre or performance development programme;
- Participation in nationally touring or professionally recognised productions;
- Significant contribution to the development or delivery of major performance events or festivals.

Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- New Zealand Fringe Festivals;
- Young & Hungry;
- National Theatresports competitions.

Visual Arts, Design & Photography

Including fine arts, photography, architecture, illustration, fashion, textile design, and creative design disciplines. Students will have demonstrated excellence in at least one of the following:

- Selection for exhibition within a recognised gallery, showcase, or festival;
- Finalist or recipient of a recognised national or international creative award or competition;
- Commission, publication, or feature by a recognised organisation, platform, or publication;
- Recipient of a significant creative arts grant, scholarship, or residency;
- Significant contribution to the curation, production, or delivery of a major exhibition or creative project.

Waiata Māori or Kapa haka composition

Accredited to a student who is recognised to have composed a waiata or kapa haka item. The composition must be performed at a meeting or conference at the national level.

Meetings or conferences include, but are not limited to:

- Te Huinga Tauira (Māori national student's conference) Huinga Rōia (National Māori Law Students Conference and any other divisional equivalent).
- Any student conference at a national level. National level is defined to have the space for all student bodies from around the country to attend.
- The composition must be recognised through an award at that conference, a placing etc.
- Must be a waiata and/or bracket composed in te reo Māori.

Other Major Awards Information

Sportsperson of the Year

Awarded to a student who, in the opinion of the panel, have achieved the most outstanding sporting performance during the applicable awards period.

Consideration may also be given to:

- Leadership and sportsmanship;
- Contribution to their sporting code or team environment;
- Representation of the values of the University of Otago;
- National or international achievement and recognition.

This award may be accompanied by Highly Commended recognition at the discretion of the panel.

Māori Sportsperson of the Year

This taonga recognises the most outstanding Māori sportsperson at the University of Otago. The award celebrates excellence in top-level sport while also recognising individuals who positively represent Māori through their achievements, leadership, contribution, and conduct within their chosen sporting field and wider community.

Consideration may include:

- National or international sporting achievement;
- Leadership and mana within sporting environments;
- Contribution to Māori sport, taura Māori, or community;
- Representation and advocacy through sport.

Coach of the Year

Recognises a coach who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, development, and achievement within their sporting code.

Consideration may include:

- Team or athlete success and development;
- Leadership, mentorship, and positive culture;
- Commitment to student sport and athlete wellbeing;
- Contribution to the wider sporting community;
- Innovation, dedication, and service within coaching.

Nominees may be a coach within an OUSA affiliated club (including non-student) or coaching elsewhere while being a current student at the University of Otago.

Outstanding Achievement in Arts & Culture

Awarded to a student who, in the opinion of the panel, have demonstrated exceptional artistic or cultural achievement during the applicable awards period.

Achievement may be demonstrated through:

- National or international recognition;
- Major festival, exhibition, showcase, or publication selection;
- Prestigious awards or competitive selection;
- Outstanding creative leadership or contribution;
- Significant artistic achievement within their chosen discipline.

The award recognises students performing at an exceptional level within artistic, creative, or cultural fields.

Silver Service Award

The Silver Service Award recognises student's exceptional service and contribution to student life through their OUSA Affiliated club. This award acknowledges individuals whose dedication and service have had a meaningful positive impact on their club, organisation, or wider student community.

This may include:

- Administration and governance;
- Coaching, managing, or officiating;
- Leadership and mentoring;
- Volunteering and organisational support;
- Long-term or significant contribution behind the scenes.

Sports Club of the Year

Recognises excellence within an OUSA affiliated sports club across participation, management, culture, development, and community engagement.

Consideration may include:

- Club culture and inclusiveness;
- Growth and member engagement;
- Event delivery and participation opportunities;
- Leadership and administration;
- Contribution to student life and wellbeing;
- Sporting achievement and development initiatives;
- Positive impact within the wider University community.

Cultural Club of the Year

Recognises excellence within OUSA affiliated cultural clubs and societies and celebrates organisations that positively contribute to cultural connection, visibility, and community on campus.

For the purposes of this award, cultural clubs may include clubs and societies centred around:

- cultural identity or heritage;
- ethnicity or nationality;
- language and cultural exchange;
- indigenous culture;
- international student communities;
- celebration of cultural diversity and belonging within the student community.

Consideration may include:

- Promotion and celebration of culture;
- Community engagement and collaboration;
- Leadership and organisational excellence;
- Cultural education and advocacy;
- Contribution to the wider University community.
- Support and connection opportunities for students.

Society of the Year

Recognises excellence in the management, engagement, promotion, and contribution of an OUSA affiliated club or society. This award is open to officially OUSA affiliated clubs and societies only and is intended for clubs that do not fall primarily within the Sports Club of the Year or Cultural Club of the Year categories.

Consideration may include:

- Leadership and committee performance;
- Innovation and creativity;
- Community engagement and inclusiveness;

- Contribution to student culture and campus life;
- Quality and consistency of activities or events;
- Member wellbeing and participation.

Outstanding Member of the University Community

This award celebrates students who have helped strengthen, support, and positively shape the University community through their contribution and engagement. Recognising a student who has made a significant positive contribution to student life.

Consideration may include:

- Demonstrated leadership, advocacy, initiative, and dedication;
- Volunteering and peer support;
- Contribution to student culture, inclusion and wellbeing;
- Participation in clubs, societies, representative groups or student initiatives;
- Mentoring and community building;
- Significant involvement in University or OUSA events and activities.

Outstanding Member of the Dunedin Community

This award celebrates students who demonstrate exceptional leadership, service, compassion, and commitment beyond the University environment, and whose efforts have had a meaningful impact on the wider Dunedin community during their time as a student.

Contributions and achievements may include, but are not limited to:

- Volunteering and community service;
- Advocacy and social impact initiatives;
- Environmental or sustainability projects;
- Youth mentoring and development;
- Charity and fundraising work;
- Community organising or leadership;
- Support for local organisations, events, or causes;
- Initiatives that improve wellbeing, inclusion, accessibility, or connection within the Dunedin community;
- Demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication;
- Long-term commitment or sustained involvement within the community;
- Positive representation of the University within the wider community;
- Collaboration, service, and contribution to community wellbeing.

Final Notes

The Awards Panel reserves the right to:

- seek additional information where required;
- assess nominations according to the opportunities and standards available within each discipline;
- determine equivalent standards for disciplines not specifically listed;
- and make final decisions regarding all awards.

The panel may also consider achievements, disciplines, or pathways not explicitly outlined within this document where they are considered comparable in standard and prestige to existing criteria.