

The Robert Bell Travelling Scholarship in Journalism

Regulations

Key Information

Closing date	1 November
Value	\$15,000
Tenure	One year
Number available annually	At least one ¹
Special requirements	Applicants must have at least three years of professional experience in journalism and must be working as journalists.

1. Purpose

This scholarship supports graduates of a University of Canterbury programme in Journalism to travel overseas to pursue enquiries and conduct research into news media and other like means of public communication. Preference is given to those whose proposals are likely to benefit New Zealand in particular. If practicable, in accordance with the desire of the donor, further preference is given to those whose enquiries and research are likely to be of particular value and interest to the farming community in New Zealand.

2. Eligibility criteria

- 2.1 Applicants must have completed the requirements for a qualification in Journalism from the University.
- 2.2 Applicants must have at least three years of professional experience in journalism and must be working as journalists.
- 2.3 Applicants must demonstrate how their material from their enquiries and research during tenure of the scholarship would reach an audience. In the case of potential news stories, applicants must provide an outline of how content would be published, along with a letter of support from their intended media partner/publisher.

3. Application process

Applications must be made online at the [Scholarships website](#)² by 1 November.

4. Selection criteria

4.1 In making the recommendation, the Journalism Advisory Board (see clause 5.2) considers:

- a. the candidate's ability to pursue research; and
- b. the candidate's proposal for pursuing enquiries and undertaking research into news media and other like means of public communication, through travel outside New Zealand.

Preference is given to those whose proposals are likely to benefit New Zealand in particular. If practicable, in accordance with the desire of the donor, further preference is given to those whose enquiries and research are likely to be of particular value and interest to the farming community in New Zealand.

4.2 If, in any year, there is no candidate of sufficient merit, no award is made.

5. Selection process

5.1 At least one scholarship is available annually.¹

5.2 The scholarship is awarded by the Council of the University on the recommendation of the Journalism Advisory Board.

6. Conditions of acceptance

6.1 Unless otherwise specified in the offer letter, an offer of a scholarship lapses if it is not formally accepted within one calendar month of the date of the offer.

6.2 The recipient must conduct enquiries and research through travel outside New Zealand. Such travel must commence by 31 December of the year following the year of application. Applications may be considered for exemption from this time limit due to exceptional circumstances.

6.3 The recipient must meet with a nominee of the Journalism Advisory Board before commencement of the overseas travel to discuss the details of both the topic of study and the programme of travel. Before commencement of the travel, the recipient must receive the Board's confirmation that the details are considered practicable and consistent with the regulations of the scholarship.

6.4 In the event of a recipient's withdrawal from the enquiries and research for which the scholarship was awarded, the scholarship is withdrawn, and any paid funds may be recovered.

6.5 By accepting the award, recipients permit publication and announcement of their acceptance, and indicate that they are willing to teach a masterclass in Journalism at the University after their return to New Zealand.

7. Value and payment schedule

7.1 The scholarship provides financial assistance at a value of \$15,000.

7.2 The scholarship is paid by direct credit to the recipient's nominated New Zealand bank account. \$14,000 is paid as soon as practicable after the recipient's proposed topic of study and programme of travel have been approved by the Journalism Advisory Board (see clause 6.3) and an itinerary and receipts for transport have been supplied. The final payment is made after the recipient's report of findings has been accepted by the Board (see clause 8.3).

8. Tenability and retention criteria

8.1 The scholarship is tenable for one year.

8.2 The scholarship is co-tenable with any other award, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

8.3 Within 18 months of the commencement of their scholarship, recipients must provide to the Journalism Advisory Board, through the Scholarships Office,² reports of their findings.³ Applications may be considered for exemptions from this time limit due to exceptional circumstances.

- 8.4 Recipients must endeavour to publish their findings through a media outlet within a reasonable period after their return to New Zealand (see clause 2.3).
- 8.5 Continuation of a scholarship is conditional on satisfactory conduct and progress of the enquiries and research for which the scholarship was awarded.

9. Background information

The scholarship was established in 1938 from a bequest of Robert Bell (1863–1937) for the purposes of supporting Journalism graduates of the University to travel overseas to investigate topics “expected to be of interest to the farming community of the Ashburton County”. In 1969 the range of topics the recipients were permitted to study was broadened.

Mr Bell was a prominent Canterbury newspaper proprietor. In 1920 he had made a donation and a proposal to Canterbury University College for the establishment of courses in Journalism and the Robert Bell Scholarship.

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Notes

¹ If, in any year, the scholarship is not awarded, the unused funds may be either added to the capital of the scholarship or used to make available an additional scholarship in the following year.

² <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/scholarships/>

³ The details of the requirements for the report are provided to the recipient by the Journalism Advisory Board prior to the commencement of travel.