

▼ REGULATIONS

The Award was established in 2001 by Drs Tony Reiger and Steven Messerschmidt, in conjunction with the National Wetland Trust of New Zealand and the University of Waikato.

The Golden Plover is one of many migratory birds who make their way from Alaska to New Zealand. The name symbolises this connection between the two countries, as the key donor was originally from Alaska but now resides in New Zealand.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Golden Plover Wetland Research Award was established to support students who are conducting original research into any aspect of the ecology or management of wetland at Honours or Masters Level at any University in New Zealand.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. To be eligible, candidates must be:
 - a) Enrolled part- or full-time in a Bachelors with Honours or Masters degree at any New Zealand University in the year of application;
 - b) Conducting original research in any aspect of the ecology or management of wetlands; and,
 - c) A New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

3. Value

- 3.1. The Award will have a value of up to \$1,000 and will be paid in one lump sum to the successful applicant after receiving the required acceptance form.

4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for applications is **1 October**.
- 4.2. The following information must be included along with the prescribed application:
 - a) A brief one-page letter of application, giving the project title, aims and objectives and a brief explanatory review of the topic, including a summary of intended methodologies and address the criteria in clause 4.3.
 - b) A CV (no longer than four A4 pages in length) which highlights the candidate's suitability to conduct research.
 - c) Proof of enrolment or intended enrolment at a New Zealand University.
 - d) Two referee's reports (one academic, preferably from the candidate's chief supervisor which confirms the applicant's eligibility for entry into an Honours or Masters programme, and one character referee).

- 4.3. Candidates must clearly demonstrate that their research meets two or more of the following criteria:
- e) Increases the appreciation of wetlands and their values by all New Zealanders.
 - f) Facilitates the enhancement and restoration of wetlands.
 - g) Increases the understanding of wetland processes by all New Zealanders.
 - h) Establishes good experimental design that will lead to an increase in scientific knowledge of an aspect of wetlands.
 - i) Improves communication about wetlands to key target groups (e.g. landowners, policy makers, and councillors).

5. Selection Criteria

- 5.1. In selecting the recipients for this Award, the Selection Panel may take into consideration the candidate's ability to demonstrate that their research meets two or more of the criteria outlined in clause 4.3.

6. Selection Panel

- 6.1. The panel will comprise of a member of the National Wetland Trust, a representative of the Faculty of Science & Engineering who has expertise in wetland research, and the Faculty of Science and Engineering representative on the Scholarship Committee or their nominees. The sponsors for the Award will also take part in the selection process where possible.
- 6.2. The Selection Panel's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into following the Selection Panel meeting.
- 6.3. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit. The Award may be shared at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

7. Awarding

- 7.1. The Award will have a maximum tenure of one year.
- 7.2. The Award may only be held by a candidate on one occasion.

8. Other Conditions

- 8.1. The recipient of the Award must, upon completion of their study, submit a short report or make a verbal presentation to the National Wetland Trust.
- 8.2. The Award may be held together with any other scholarship, bursary or prize, unless the conditions of the other award(s) preclude this.
- 8.3. The Scholarships Committee may terminate the Award at any time, and recoup any funds dispersed, if it is satisfied that the recipient is not following the approved programme of study or is not otherwise complying with the conditions governing the Award and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato.

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- 8.4. The holder of the Award will have the right to appeal to the appropriate University Committee¹ against any decision to terminate the Award.
- 8.5. By accepting an Award, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the University of Waikato or the National Wetland Trust.

¹ Student appeals for University of Waikato Awards granted for undergraduate or completely taught postgraduate level study should be made to the Education Committee; student appeals for research level study (e.g. Masters) should be made to the Research Committee.