

Ada Wells Memorial Prize

Waeture | Regulations

Whakamāramatanga | Key Information

Rā whakamutunga Closing date	30 September
Whaipainga Value	\$1,000
Rahinga ia tau Number available annually	One
Herenga motuhake Special requirements	Applicants must: a. be students of Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha University of Canterbury; or b. have graduated from the University in the 36 months prior to the closing date for applications.

1. Aronga | Purpose

This prize is open to students and recent graduates of Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha University of Canterbury for an essay on a subject involving an exposition of some passage chosen from literature having reference to social ideals.

2. Paearu māraurau | Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- be students of Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury; or
- have graduated from the University in the 36 months prior to the closing date for applications for the current round.

3. Tukanga tononga | Application process

- Applications must be made online at the Scholarships website¹ by 30 September.
- Applications are not accepted from previous recipients of the prize.

4. Tukanga kōwhiringa | Selection process

- One prize is available annually.
- The scholarship is awarded by Te Kaunihera | University Council on the recommendation of a selection committee comprising:
 - the Tumuaki Tari, Te Tari Mātai Ingarihi | Head of the Department of English (or nominee);
 - the Tumuaki Tari | Head of another department that teaches a language (or nominee);² and

- c. the Tumuaki Tari, Te Tari Whakaaroaro | Head of the Department of Philosophy (or nominee) or the Tumuaki Tari, Mātauranga Hapori me Mātauranga Tikanga Tangata | Head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (or nominee).³

4.3 Applicants must submit an essay on a topic that is advertised each year on the Scholarships website.¹ The topic of the essay is set by the selection committee, and it involves the exposition of some passage chosen from literature having reference to social ideals. References are expected where appropriate and essays must be no more than 3,000 words in length.⁴

5. Paearu kōwhiringa | Selection criteria

5.1 In making its recommendation, the committee gives equal weight to the value of the ideas expressed and the literary quality of the essay.

5.2 If, in any year, there is no essay of sufficient merit, no prize is offered.

5.3 A condition of acceptance is that the recipient permits:

- a. announcement and publication of acceptance of the award; and
- b. publication of their essay, if the selection committee recommends and a suitable medium can be found.

6. Mahere utu | Value and payment schedule

6.1 The prize is a monetary award at a value of \$1,000.

6.2 The prize is paid by direct credit to the recipient's nominated New Zealand bank account.

7. Whakamahuki | Background information

The children of Ada Wells (Mrs W R Carey, Mrs Christabel Twyneham, Miss G A C Wells, and Mr J S Wells) established the prize in 1933 from a donation to Canterbury College in memory of their mother. Mrs Wells, née Ada Pike (1863–1933), was a student of Canterbury College in the 1880s. She is best remembered for her contributions to the women's suffrage campaign in the 1880s and '90s, and for becoming in 1917 the first woman elected to the Christchurch City Council.⁵

Rā whakaae | Approval date: November 2024

Tuhinga i mua | Previous versions: May 2008; July 2018; February 2022

Tohutoro | Reference: 94621:5880:0:0:2

Pitopito kōrero | Notes

¹ <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/scholarships>

² All departments that teach a language are included, and such a department is again represented on the selection committee only after all other such departments have been represented in the intervening rounds.

³ Te Tari Whakaaroaro | Department of Philosophy is represented in even-numbered years, and Mātauranga Hapori me Mātauranga Tikanga Tangata | the Department of Sociology and Anthropology is represented in odd-numbered years.

⁴ Candidates may disclose their identity only through the application form. Submissions must be anonymous.

⁵ For details of Ada Wells' life, see:

Philippa Fogarty, "Wells, Ada", in *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* (1993),
<https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2w11/wells-ada>.