Exceptional Circumstances Awards

**Regulations**

These awards are to enable women to initiate, continue or complete tertiary study in exceptional circumstances where government support is unavailable or insufficient. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to: relationship changes, second chance education, need for child or elder care, lack of family support, cultural requirements, illness, disability and length of intended course. Awards are usually $2,000 to $3,000 but up to $10,000 may be awarded on occasion.

*Personal information included in these applications will be made available only to members of the selection committee and used solely for assessing this award. The references will be considered confidential to this application and will not be released to the student without the written authorisation of the referees. The references must be sent directly to the Trust by the referees.*

**Application Requirements**

1. Evidence of NZ citizenship, such as a certified copy of your passport or birth certificate.
2. Certified copy of academic transcript from tertiary study, if applicable. NCEA transcript is to be supplied if no tertiary study has been undertaken.
3. Academic reference. The referee\* should be someone who has taught you at tertiary level but may be a secondary school teacher if you have no tertiary study. If there is no appropriate academic referee (if study was completed some time ago, for instance), then a reference from employer/ supervisor of volunteers or similar who can attest to your capacity for learning and perseverance can be substituted.
4. Personal statement of at least 750 words. Outline your intended course of study including your reasons for choosing it and how it fits into your possible future plans. Outline how an Exceptional Circumstances Grant could help you to successfully advance your plans and fulfil your potential. Specify the dollar amount you are seeking.
5. Reference to support special circumstances. This may not be from a member of your immediate family. \*\*It may be from an employer, social worker or family friend. It may be from a teacher or university lecturer but note that this is NOT an academic reference, and the referee should be able to attest to your exceptional circumstances rather than your academic record.

Payments to successful applicants will be made once evidence of course enrolment is received.

\* Guidelines for referee: How long have you known the candidate? What strengths (aptitude for the subject, enquiring mind, diligence, perseverance, teamwork etc.) does she bring to her studies? Does she have the ability to be likely to succeed at her intended course of study?

\*\* Guidelines for referee: How do you know the candidate? How long have you known her? What circumstances are you aware of that create particular challenges for her in pursuing her intended course of study? What qualities does she possess that make her worthy of

consideration for this award? This could include her attitude, work ethic and experience outside her formal studies as well as the way she has managed challenges previously. What difference do you expect an award could make to her study programme?

**Application Forms are available on www.graduatewomencanterbury.nz  
Enquiries may be made through** [**trust@graduatewomencanterbury.nz**](mailto:trust@graduatewomencanterbury.nz)