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**David Medway Scholarship - Conditions**

Established in 2014, the ‘David Medway Scholarship’ (DMS) through the George Mason Fund is named in commemoration of David Medway FLS, a former President of Birds New Zealand. David was author of many research publications on the behaviour of the common native birds found in Taranaki and of the historical aspects of early bird explorers in New Zealand. The scholarship is sponsored by the George Mason Charitable Trust, and managed by the [Taranaki Foundation](https://taranakifoundation.org.nz/). The awards are recognised as ‘George Mason Endowment Gift’. One George Mason Endowment Gift may be awarded annually with a maximum value of $5,500.

The scholarship is intended to provide financial support to a student who is studying full time for a Masters or PhD degree and is conducting research in ornithology. Eligible research projects will include field work and must clearly be of benefit to ornithology in New Zealand and to New Zealand birds. The scholarship may be applied at the discretion of the successful student to provide financial support for field work, study-related travel, data analysis, reporting and living expenses (or any combination of these). The scholarship will not support attendance at conferences.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have a minimum of four years of experience with ornithology in New Zealand, and must be current members of Birds New Zealand at the time of submission of an application. If a Birds New Zealand subscription is overdue then a student is not eligible for consideration for the scholarship.

Applications will be considered by the Scientific Committee of Birds New Zealand, who will issue a recommendation, based on the merits of applications received, to the Council of the society. The Council will then make a final decision as to the recipient of the George Mason Endowment Gift.

In selecting a recipient, Birds New Zealand shall take into account academic merit and other scholarships and bursaries held by the applicant. The successful student awarded will be eligible to accept funding from other sources. Preference may be given to proposals for ornithological research that is expected to contribute to a greater knowledge of birds in the Taranaki region. The George Mason Endowment Gift will not be awarded in the event that there are no suitable applicants and it shall only be awarded once to any one person.

Within 12 months of receiving the George Mason Endowment Gift, the successful student must provide a short summary report on the project, suitable for publication in *Birds New Zealand* (max. 1 page). The student will be encouraged to publish the results of the research in a paper in *Notornis.*

Applicants shall fill in the application form and attach a project outline (max. 2 pages) that sets out the objectives and what is expected to be achieved from the study, the location, a clear description of the proposed research methodology and reporting, a proposed budget and a timeframe for the study. Applicants should enclose their *curriculum vitae,* evidence for accepted enrolment, and a reference from their supervisor.

Applications open **1 February** and should be made no later than **30 March** in the year when the George Mason Endowment Gift will be awarded. Applications should be emailed to the Birds NZ Executive Officer: [eo@birdsnz.org.nz](mailto:eo@birdsnz.org.nz). All applications will be acknowledged by email. Further information is available at [www.birdsnz.org.nz/funding/david-medway-scholarship/](http://www.birdsnz.org.nz/funding/david-medway-scholarship/).

https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/GMCT-Logo-300x41.jpg



**David Medway Scholarship - Application**

**Contact details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Phone |  |
| Affiliation and contact address |  |

**Project Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project title |  |
| Degree programme |  |
| How far through the project are you? |  |
| Who are your supervisors? |  |
| Do you hold any other scholarships or bursaries? |  |

Please attach:

* A project outline that sets out the objectives and what is expected to be achieved from the study, the location of proposed research, a clear description of the proposed research methodology (including reporting), a proposed budget and a timeframe for the studies.
* Evidence for accepted enrolment.
* A short *curriculum vitae.*
* A reference from your supervisor.

Please email your completed application to the Birds NZ Executive Officer: [eo@birdsnz.org.nz](mailto:eo@birdsnz.org.nz)   
by **30 March.**

*Amended / May 2025*