



**POLICY FOR THE
NOMINATION AND DELIBERATION
OF PACIFIC AWARDS**

University of Otago Pacific Islands Students' Association

Ratified: June 2023



POLICY OVERVIEW

The Pacific Awards are prestigious annual prizes given by the University of Otago Pacific Students' Association (UOPISA), typically presented at a Pacific Awards Night or an equivalent formal event. This Policy outlines the nomination process, eligibility criteria, selection process and dissemination of the results relating to the Pacific Awards.

1. OVERVIEW OF PACIFIC AWARDS

1.1. The purpose of Pacific Awards is:

- 1.1.1. To recognize and reward UOPISA affiliated associations, members and staff who have shown outstanding and prestigious work within their cultural association, academic association, degree and/or local community.
 - 1.1.2. To highlight and acknowledge the importance and impact of Pacific student leadership within the university environment.
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2. DEFINITIONS

2.1. 'Prestige' is:

- 2.1.1. A widespread respect and admiration of this person on the basis of their active community service and leadership skills.
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3. NOMINATIONS OF THE AWARDS

- 3.1. Nominations are mainly sent by proxy via an online form. The nomination form will be made available for both the university and external community to nominate who they think deserves such an award. The nomination form shall be available for voting for one month.
 - 3.2. Upon nominating, the nominator shall be aware of the eligibility criteria for the Pacific awards, as defined below.
 - 3.3. Each nomination shall be accompanied by a written statement outlining the reasons for the nomination.
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4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AWARDS



4.1. The eligibility criteria for all individual Pacific Award recipients are as follows. Any amendments to the eligibility criteria will be made at the discretion of the Standing Committee.

4.2. Pacific Leadership Excellence Award

4.2.1. Eligible nominees for the Pacific Leadership Award must:

- 4.2.1.1. Be a Pacific Islands student enrolled at the University of Otago during the year of nomination, and;
- 4.2.1.2. Have demonstrated excellence in a leadership position during the year of nomination. Leadership is defined by a set of behaviours that inspire collective action towards a vision greater than themselves, and;
- 4.2.1.3. Go above and beyond the requirements of their executive position or other leadership role, and;
- 4.2.1.4. Have not won the award in the year prior to nomination.

4.3. Pacific Cultural Excellence Award

4.3.1. Eligible nominees for the Pacific Cultural Excellence Award must:

- 4.3.1.1. Be a Pacific Islands student enrolled at the University of Otago during the year of nomination, and;
- 4.3.1.2. Have demonstrated excellence in cultural expression during the year of nomination. Cultural expression is defined as teaching, sharing or performing aspects of their culture to others, and;
- 4.3.1.3. Have demonstrated actions in line with their Pacific cultural values, and;
- 4.3.1.4. Have not won the award in the year prior to nomination.

4.4. Pacific Community Excellence Award

4.4.1. Eligible nominees for the Pacific Community Excellence Award must:

- 4.4.1.1. Be a Pacific Islands student enrolled at the University of Otago during the year of nomination, and;
- 4.4.1.2. Must have demonstrated excellent service to the community during the year of nomination. Service to the community is defined by voluntary work, engagement and/or commitment at a local, national or international level, and;



4.4.1.3. Have had a positive impact in their field or area of influence, and;

4.4.1.4. Have not won the award in the year prior to nomination.

4.5. Pacific Sporting Excellence Award

4.5.1. Eligible nominees for the Pacific Sporting Excellence Award must:

4.5.1.1. Be a Pacific Islands student enrolled at the University of Otago during the year of nomination, and;

4.5.1.2. Must have demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship this year. Sportsmanship is defined as showing fair and generous behaviour towards others in a sporting environment, and;

4.5.1.3. Outstanding performance in their respective sports, and;

4.5.1.4. Have not won the award in the year prior to nomination.

4.6. Pacific Rising Star Award

4.6.1. Eligible nominees for the Pacific Community Excellence Award must:

4.6.1.1. Be a first-year Pacific Islands student enrolled at the University of Otago during the year of nomination, and;

4.6.1.2. Demonstrate the potential for excellence in leadership, academia, culture, community and/or sports, and;

4.6.1.3. Demonstrate resilience and dedication to being an aspiring leader, and;

4.6.1.4. Have not won the award in the year prior to nomination.

4.7. Pacific Academic Association Award

4.7.1. Eligible nominees for the Pacific Academic Association Award must:

4.7.1.1. Be an affiliated Pacific Islands Student association, and;

4.7.1.2. Be active in the year of nomination, and;

4.7.1.3. Have demonstrated excellence in fulfilling their strategic goals as outlined in their Constitution, and;

4.7.1.4. Be recognised for their outstanding and active support towards their members.

4.8. Pacific Cultural Association Award



4.8.1. Eligible nominees for the Pacific Academic Association Award must:

- 4.8.1.1. Be an affiliated Pacific Islands Student association, and;
- 4.8.1.2. Be active in the year of nomination, and;
- 4.8.1.3. Have demonstrated excellence in fulfilling their strategic goals as outlined in their Constitution, and;
- 4.8.1.4. Be recognised for their outstanding and active support towards their members.

4.9. Pacific Support Staff Award

4.9.1. Eligible nominees for the Pacific Support Staff Award must:

- 4.9.1.1. Be of Pacific Islands heritage, and;
- 4.9.1.2. Be employed by the University of Otago in a student support role during the year of nomination, and;
- 4.9.1.3. Have demonstrated excellence in supporting Pacific students' well-being, sense of belonging and/or cultural identity in the year of nomination, and;
- 4.9.1.4. Have not won the award in the year prior to nomination.

4.10. Pacific Academic Staff Award

4.10.1. Eligible nominees for the Pacific Academic Staff Award must:

- 4.10.1.1. Be of Pacific Islands heritage, and;
- 4.10.1.2. Be employed by the University of Otago in an academic role during the year of nomination, and;
- 4.10.1.3. Have demonstrated excellence in supporting Pacific students' academic achievement and/or their experiences with research or learning during the year of nomination, and;
- 4.10.1.4. Have not won the award in the year prior to nomination.

5. SELECTION PANEL

- 5.1. Two Selection Panels will be established each year to contribute to the selection of the Award winners. Both Selection Panels will have equal input to the selection, with the final decision made by the UOPISA executive members after collating the respective votes.



- 5.2. Selection Panel One shall comprise of:
 - 5.2.1. The Standing Committee.
 - 5.2.1.1. The Presidents or representatives of member associations.
 - 5.3. Selection Panel Two shall comprise of:
 - 5.3.1. One University staff member from each academic division, and;
 - 5.3.2. A representative from organisation/s contributing to the funding of the Awards.
 - 5.4. If nominations are low, a decision by the Selection Panels shall be sought regarding this.
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6. AWARD WINNERS

- 6.1. All nominees will be sent an email invitation to the Pacific Awards Night, if held during the year of nominations.
 - 6.2. Award winners who do not or are unable to attend the Night will not be disadvantaged by this.
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7. PACIFIC AWARDS NIGHT

- 7.1. The Pacific Awards Night:
 - 7.1.1. Is a formal event organised by the UOPISA executive, and;
 - 7.1.2. Typically consists of an evening of fine-dining, guest speakers, entertainment and a formal Awards ceremony, and;
 - 7.1.3. Is a ticketed event and thus requires proof of a purchased ticket upon entry.
 - 7.2. Affiliated member associations and University of Otago staff members will be invited to attend the event where necessary.
 - 7.3. Life Members are entitled to seating at the event, given they purchase a ticket within the advised time frame.
 - 7.4. External sponsors and stakeholders may also be invited to the event.
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Any changes to this Policy will be discussed internally with input and advice from the UOPISA Standing Committee, composed of representatives from our affiliated member associations. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document, please contact the Secretary-elect at secretary.uopisa@gmail.com and your inquiry will be dealt with in confidence.