

# Violet Wickham Memorial Bursary

## Bursary Regulations

### Focus

Agriculture

### Level of Study

Undergraduate

### Purpose

The Violet Wickham Memorial Bursary assists agriculture students at Massey University who would otherwise be unable to study due to financial hardship

### Background

Violet Wickham (nee Zurcher) (1916-1988) was one of five children and grew up in Longburn, Manawatu on a dairy farm with her Swiss parents. She married Frank Hadley Wickham in 1939 and moved to Taranaki where they raised nine children on a dairy farm in Ratapiko. Violet regretted leaving school at the age of 15 and encouraged her children to make the most of educational opportunities. Violet was deeply committed to helping those less fortunate than herself. Despite the demands of her own large family, she always found time to help other women and families in need. Her son Brian (born 1946) completed his secondary education at Inglewood High School in 1964 and after serving a year on Volunteer Student Abroad in Sarawak commenced study for an Agricultural Science Degree at Massey University in 1966. Brian graduated from Massey with a Masters of Agricultural Science in 1972 and went on to complete a PhD in animal breeding and genetics at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA in 1975. Brian has used his knowledge and skills to contribute to the field of farm animal breeding in New Zealand, Ireland and worldwide.

The Violet Wickham Memorial Bursary was established by Brian Wickham in 2016. Like his mother, he believes in the value of education and the potential of young people no matter what their family circumstances.

### Value and Tenure

The value of the bursary is determined each year from the interest earned on the capital and is generally in the region of \$5,000 - \$7,000 for full time students prorated for part time. The bursary is offered annually as funds permit and the tenure is for a single academic year.

## Typical Number on Offer

The number of bursaries is determined by the fund available but is typically between 5 and 7 awards.

## Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be born in New Zealand
- be enrolled full time or part time (minimum of 30 credits per semester) in an undergraduate degree in the field of agriculture at Massey University
- have completed at least 120 credits towards their degree at the time of application
- have a grade point average of B or better in their study to date  
be experiencing financial hardship

## Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on:

- academic merit in study to date, with an expectation that applicants have a B grade average or higher
- evidence of financial hardship as demonstrated through a financial statement and a budget illustrating how the applicant's education will be funded
- the applicant's circumstances, ambitions for the future, and their educational plans, as outlined in a covering letter

## Selection Committee

The bursary will be awarded by the University Scholarships Advisory Committee on the recommendation of the Applied Academic Programmes Scholarships Committee, College of Sciences.

## Conditions of the Bursary

The Violet Wickham Bursary may be held in conjunction with other scholarships, bursaries or awards, so long as those scholarships, bursaries or awards permit co-tenure.

Payment will be made in two instalments upon confirmation of enrolment in semesters one and two, following the official withdrawal dates for these semesters.

The Committee may decline to award any scholarships in any year if there are no applicants of sufficient merit to warrant an award.