**Oppenheim Trust – Tertiary Education Fund Guide for Applicants**

**September 2021**

Founded in 1989 by Dr and Mrs Oppenheim, the purpose of this Trust is to provide assistance to registered Blind Low Vision NZ clients who are entering, or presently undertaking tertiary level studies. By founding this Trust, the Oppenheim’s recognised the specific challenges faced by tertiary students, where assistance was minimal compared to the state funded primary and secondary education support systems.

The Trust defines tertiary as courses of study leading to a degree or recognised vocational qualification. Due to limited resources, the Trust is not able to assist with the cost of textbooks, travel or accommodation. Funds are specifically granted for course fees only, and the cost of enrolment fees, registration fees or any other additional fees will not be funded as part of any grants that are made. If you are entering tertiary study for the first time, you are encouraged to apply for Government assistance to support your first year of study. You can check your eligibility at [www.feesfree.org.nz](http://www.feesfree.org.nz).

Applications open annually in September, and close mid-January. The Committee meets in mid-January to review each application individually and decide upon the grant recipients. By mid-February, all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application. All grants that are approved will be paid directly to the tertiary education provider. The Fund cannot pay for any studies that have already been completed. You must be already enrolled, or preparing to be enrolled for studies at the time the committee meets to review applications.

All applications must be submitted online, handwritten applications will not be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be considered, included in each application should be the following:

* Completed application form
* Cover letter (written by applicant)
* Enrolment confirmation
* Invoice or Quote for the cost of study
* Results from previous courses/studies
* Letters of support

If you are unable to provide any of the above documents at the time of application you must upload a letter to explain the situation. For example, if waiting on an invoice from the University, submit a confirmation of the cost of studies. All applications should be updated prior to the closing date. Late applications will not be considered.

All applications for the Oppenheim Trust should be submitted online via the Blind Low Vision NZ website. Should you require support or further information please contact oppenheim@blindlowvision.org.nz for assistance.