NZCEO
TE TARI MĀTAURANGA KATORIKA O AOTEAROA
NZ CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

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NZCEO Scholarship for Leadership in Catholic Education 2027

The **New Zealand Catholic Education Office announces the 2027** Leadership in Catholic Education Scholarship Award Programme, for fees for graduate and post graduate study of Catholic Leadership, Religious Education, and/or Theology.

Introduction

The New Zealand Catholic Education Office recognises how important having well qualified and knowledgeable Catholic teachers and leaders in our Catholic schools are if they are to "assist in the human and faith formation of the students"[1]. The Church is very aware there are currently not enough teachers and school leaders, in our Catholic schools, with the necessary formation and qualifications to ensure formation of students is "…. authentically Christian and Catholic …." [2] Therefore, formation of teachers and leaders is crucially important given that goals of the Catholic school are fundamentally different to those of the state school. The Catholic school is primarily a vehicle in promoting the faith of the Catholic community more than it is an instrument of the government's education policy or promoter of society's economic and social objectives. However, excellence in education and developing students who are a positive influence for good within our political and economic systems is important but only within a culture that respects human dignity and promotes Christian witness through a focus on the common good.

Scholarship Priorities

Every year the NZCEO makes a significant financial contribution to supporting the development of Catholic teachers in leadership and the teaching of Religious Education. The Board of NZCEO has generously allocated a fund to provide scholarships for teachers and leaders to undertake tertiary qualifications – in the main at post graduate level in support of our future Catholic leaders given their need to undertake qualifications in Catholic leadership.

The following ***priorities*** have been identified by NZCEO in terms of the allocation of these scholarships:

a. Staff in Catholic schools undertaking post graduate study in Catholic Educational Leadership
b. Staff in Catholic schools undertaking graduate or post graduate study in Religious Education and/or Theology.
c. Catholic Teacher Trainees undertaking their post graduate teacher education qualification **and** undertaking studies in Religious Education

Program Eligibility and Guidelines

1. Scholarship candidates should be Catholic.
2. Open to:
    I. teachers working in Catholic schools in Aotearoa New Zealand who are identified as future leaders in Catholic Schools
    II. current leaders in Aotearoa New Zealand Catholic schools

[1] New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference. (2014). *The Catholici Education of Schools-Age Children,* pg.11.
[2] Ibid, pg. 12

III. Catholic teacher trainees completing their post graduate teacher education qualification, and undertaking studies in Religious Education and or Theology and who are committed to taking their first teaching post in the Aotearoa New Zealand Catholic school system, including teaching Religious Education

3. Teachers completing post-graduate studies in theology to teach Religious Education.

4. Available to New Zealand citizens and permanent residents.

5. Applicants to be endorsed by the school through the Principal or the Presiding Member of the School Board (in the case of a principal) or Diocese Education Manager for a person undertaking a post graduate teacher trainee programme.

6. These endorsers must state that the applicant has the ability and personal characteristics to complete this study on top of their school and or other tertiary responsibilities.

7. Past record of successful tertiary study would be an advantage.

8. Applications are to be accompanied by an offer letter from the tertiary institution such as Australian Catholic University or Te Kupenga-Catholic Leadership College confirming applicant's admission to the tertiary programme.

9. Scholarships are awarded for the duration of the programme on the condition that enrolment/study in the programme is successful and continuous.

10. The maximum scholarship offered is $4000 over the duration of the programme and distributed in the following way:
    - $1000 scholarship payment for the first 4 papers

11. NZCEO looks for evidence of support for the candidate from their school/School Board or Diocese Education Manager towards the total cost.

12. Applicants can receive support from diocesan scholarships and/or grants, however, the NZCEO award will not exceed the total value of course fees.

13. NZCEO reserves the right to vary the amount or terminate the scholarship if funding is not available at any time.

14. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to successful students upon receipt by NZCEO of each paper's final grade results from the tertiary institution.

15. Applicants who receive a scholarship but do not fulfil the conditions listed above will return their scholarship funds to NZCEO.

Applications for Scholarship

Application for the scholarship and declaration forms for the NZCEO Scholarship for Leadership in Catholic Education should be submitted between 30 October 2025 year and 28 February of the year in which the study is to be commenced.
Send to:
Rosalie Connors
Manager Special Character, NZCEO
r.connors@nzceo.org.nz or P.O. Box 12302, Thorndon, Wellington 6144

Application for the Scholarship Funds

Applications for release of approved funds are to be submitted no later than **30 July 2027 for semester one papers** and **10 December 2027 for semester two papers**: An application for release of approved scholarship funds should be accompanied by a certified (Principal, Diocesan Education Manager) copy of each paper's results slip and the applicants bank account number. Email all applications to:

Rosalie Connors:
Manager Special Character, NZCEO
r.connors@nzceo.org.nz

Late applications need to be approved by NZCEO. Please submit any questions to: r.connors@nzceo.org.nz