



The Davorin Ozich Croatian Youth Scholarship

CHARTER

Background

The Davorin Ozich Youth Scholarship (the Scholarship) has been established by the Croatian Cultural Society in 2023 to acknowledge the work and commitment of its founding president, the late Davorin Ozich.

Davorin Ozich was passionate in supporting the youth of the Society in their endeavours, and in particular the learning of Croatian language, culture, and history. The Scholarship has been initiated to support the Society's main purpose:

“Our aim is to celebrate our cultural heritage and enrich both the Croatian community within New Zealand and our wider community – with the objective of ultimately advancing and contributing to the social fabric of New Zealand.”

The Scholarship is also in accordance with the following Objectives of the Society:

- A. To uphold Croatian identity and awareness in New Zealand.
- B. To extend, foster and cultivate the Croatian Culture within New Zealand.
- C. To promote and foster friendship, co-operation, and goodwill between all people of Croatian descent, their families, those of other ethnic groups and the people of New Zealand.
- D. To initiate, organise and promote social functions, entertainment, intellectual, sporting, educational and cultural activities for the benefit of the society and its members.
- E. To establish, organise and promote the teaching and upholding of the Croatian language, Croatian history, literature, drama, folklore, customs, music, and culture.

Purpose

The purpose of the Scholarship is to support young members of the Society (aged between 15 and 25 years) in their academic, sporting, entrepreneurial or cultural endeavors and to:

- Promote and grow their connection with their Croatian heritage and community, in New Zealand and potentially overseas;
- Facilitate their progress and success in their particular field at a national level, at a tertiary institution, event, or other equivalent fora;

- Provide an opportunity and support to represent the Society and/or engage with their personal heritage at a level or in an environment that will develop them, and the Society's aims further;
- Encourage them to share their journey and engage with other members of the Society to promote intergenerational dialogue and support.

The Scholarship comprises \$10,000 per annum, and is available across 4 categories (maximum one of payment of \$2,500 per category):

- Academic – for higher study or specific research that will further the work and understanding of Croatian history, culture, language, or the contribution of Croatian diaspora to their communities;
- Sporting – selection for senior level national representation either in NZ or overseas to significant events that will provide the opportunity for worldwide exposure;
- Entrepreneurial – demonstrate innovation and potential for a new business or concept that will create a better community for everyone;
- Cultural – post-graduate or recognized specific study to research, understand, use, and promote the Croatian language and/or culture, including folklore, music, art, literature.

Overall criteria

All candidates must:

- Be aged between 15 -25 years in the year of the application;
- Be individual members or part of a family membership, of the Society for more than 12 months at the date of the application;
- Live in New Zealand or be New Zealand citizens;
- Complete the application form;
- Provide 2 references, with contact details – at least one to be from an institution or organization that supports their application, and one personal reference; and if shortlisted;
- Attend an interview.

For each category the candidate must:

- Outline in up to 2000 words the proposal or endeavour for which they seek funding, along with an explanation of the background and credibility of the proposal and details of current and/or prior success;

- Provide copies of any evidence to demonstrate the achievements, success, or other documents in support of the proposal;
- Outline in up to 500 words the contribution that they consider their proposal will make to their future success, and their links to their Croatian heritage.

The Secretary of the Society will receive each application and check it has included all the information requested above. Incomplete applications will be returned. Applicants will be advised if their application is received, on the basis it includes all the information required.

Selection Committee and its approach

The Scholarship will be administered by the “Selection Committee” appointed by the Committee of the Society. The Committee will review and appoint the members of the Selection Committee each year. The Selection Committee will comprise 5 people, and for 2024 this will be:

- The President of the Society
- The Secretary of the Society
- Antony Arnerich, chair of the sub-committee (a member of the Committee)
- Christine Ozich Permanent Position (Davorin’s wife)
- Marija Batistich (Davorin’s niece)

Role of the Selection Committee

The main role of the Selection Committee will be to consider applications, interview applicants and meet as required to discuss the applications and determine the award of scholarships.

The Selection Committee will also set the dates for the application process at the start of each year.

If a member of the Selection Committee is unable to attend, a quorum to meet shall be 4 members. If a member is unable to attend or withdraws from the committee for a period, the Selection Committee may co-opt another member from the main committee.

If the consideration of applications requires specific expertise e.g., technical knowledge or background, the Selection Committee may seek advice from a person with the necessary expertise to assist it with its consideration. That person will not form part of the Selection Committee but just be an advisor to it.

If a member of the Selection Committee is related to an applicant or has a close family or other connection with an applicant, then that member shall withdraw from the assessment of that application and the awarding of the Scholarship for that specific category. If the Selection Committee considers it requires additional support, it may choose to co-opt another member from the main committee for the consideration of applications in that category.

The Selection Committee will provide a report annually, in the last quarter of each year, to the Committee of the Society. That report will cover:

- The number and calibre of applications for the Scholarship
- The application and selection process, and feedback received
- Recommendations for the future administration, funding, and other aspects

A representative/s of the Selection Committee will attend the meeting of the Committee where the report is to be discussed and consider any recommendations for the following year for the administration and award of the Scholarship, including reporting, membership, and other resourcing of the Selection Committee.

The Annual Application process

- Complete the application [hard copy/online] and submit all required information including details of references by the specified due date;
- Appointed Secretary of the Selection Committee will vet the form and confirm it includes all required information;

Shortlisting

- Once the application has been considered, and each member of the Selection Committee has assessed each application, then the Selection Committee will determine in its discretion a short list of candidates for the next stage.

- Within one month of the due date, candidates will be advised whether they have made the short list. If candidates are not selected for the shortlist they may reapply in future years.
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview – either in person/zoom with the Selection Committee, no longer than 30 mins, format to be confirmed but comprising a short presentation by the candidate on their application and then answering questions from the panel.
- Successful candidates will be informed within a month of being advised they have been shortlisted.
- Successful candidates will be announced at the annual Dan Drzavnosti celebrations in June each year – exact date to be confirmed. If unable to attend in person, the candidate may attend via video link to present a message.
- As a condition of accepting the scholarship, in the year immediately following receipt of the scholarship the candidate will provide a report or update on their work/success/progress as a result of the scholarship.

The Decision

The decision of the Selection Committee to award a scholarship in each category is at its sole discretion and no reasons or explanation will be provided. The Selection Committee may decide not to award a scholarship in one or more categories, or depending on the nature and number of applications that meet the criteria, to award a scholarship in more than one category.

If a scholarship category is not awarded then the Selection Committee may use its discretion to otherwise utilise the funds, with the approval of the Committee of the Society.

The timing and payment of the Scholarship will be advised by the Selection Committee at the time it notifies successful applicant/s.

Successful candidates cannot apply in subsequent years.

Confidentiality

The information provided as part of the application process will be kept confidential to the Selection Committee (and any advisors). Summary details of the application/s may be shared with the Committee. In the case of successful candidates information to be shared publicly as part of the announcement will include the summary details and otherwise be agreed between the Selection Committee and the successful applicant in terms of both content and timing, as well as later updates on progress/results etc.

Sponsorship

If an external party wishes to sponsor a category of the Scholarship, then it may do so with the approval of the Committee of the Society. The Selection Committee may establish criteria for the award and allocation of any such additional funds with the agreement of the sponsor. Such funds to be held separately from the funds of the Society.

4 December 2023