

Malaysian alumni and students support Otago



The University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia provides support for the University's activities related to Malaysia and Malaysian students studying at Otago. Members of the Foundation also seek opportunities for alumni in Malaysia to interact with the University.

Remembering their own student days on campus, the executive members set up an award in 2008 for Malaysian students who are involved in the Malaysian student community and who contribute to the wellbeing of Malaysian students on campus.

Most of the award winners are involved in Otago University Malaysian Students' Association (OMSA), founded in the 1960s. One of the largest, most active and vibrant cultural student organisations on campus, its activities and social occasions are eagerly anticipated by students and the wider community alike. Popular activities include the annual musical spectacular Malam Malaysia, Fiesta Malaysia (pictured above) and the Malaysian food festival, which attracts big crowds.

Members give back to the local community and organize voluntary activities, including beach cleanups and a big tree planting day on Quarantine Island. In 2006 and 2010, OMSA was awarded the OUSA Society of the Year and the Individual Gold award.

The Foundation for Malaysia has recognized the individual efforts of students who organize these activities with their University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia Award.

Last year's recipient, Eric Lim, says of the award, "I'm very grateful to the Foundation for awarding me with the University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia Prize in 2013."

"As the former President of the Otago Malaysian Students Association, I have definitely been encouraged to do my very best in representing and being the voice of all Malaysian students in Otago as well as protecting their welfare. Though I have completed my term as President, I will continue to help out and support the Malaysian student community here."

We'd also like to thank the Malaysian Students Association for all of the colour, vibrancy and community spirit that they contribute to Otago!

Special thanks to the University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia for generously supporting this special prize.