



Sir Robert Jones
Refugee Daughters' Scholarships
2016

RJH

FORWARD

I'm delighted to welcome aboard a fresh crop of young women to our refugee daughters' tertiary education funding scheme.

Most have harrowing background stories. While finding a haven in New Zealand provides relief from danger it's still an alien land with an alien culture and language which confronts these girls at a young age. In many cases they are obliged to effectively become the head of the family in dealing with the new order.

Having many daughters and thus aware of such matters, I take special pleasure in our supplementary provision over and above fees and accommodation, of vouchers for two dresses each per annum.

I wish them all success in their studies and future lives.

Sir Robert Jones



Refugees as Survivors New Zealand (RASNZ) is delighted to congratulate the Robert Jones scholarship winners for 2016. Our organisation is honoured to be associated with this very valuable and worthy endeavour. Sincere thanks to Sir Robert Jones for his foresight and generosity in providing young refugee women with the chance to further their study and achieve their dreams.

At the end of 2015 we received outstanding applications from young women throughout New Zealand which made the selection process both challenging and inspiring. Many of the scholars have had very limited formal education, faced extreme personal and family hardship and yet have shown huge courage and determination to gain university entrance in their new homeland. We applaud their success.

I would like to thank the many people who work behind the scenes to ensure the scholarship process runs smoothly. To the selection panels in both Auckland and Wellington – Tjitske Hunter from the Ministry of Education, Sabrina Zoutenbier from the University of Auckland, Hariaty Abu Hassan from Victoria University, Rodtany Pal and Greg Loveridge from Robt. Jones Holdings and Dr Arif Saied from RASNZ. Very special thanks to Diana Swarbrick who administers the scholarship and keeps in close contact with every scholar.

Whilst these young women are more than capable of succeeding in the tertiary environment, they can find university or polytech daunting and, at times, overwhelming. RASNZ works to support their success by offering practical advice, emotional encouragement and mentoring programmes. We look forward to working with them in the year ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the partnerships that have been established between Robt. Jones Holdings and Victoria University, Waikato University and the Auckland University of Technology. These institutions match the scholarship by up to 50% for students attending their university. This enables Robt. Jones Holdings to offer more scholarships in a given year.

I am sure you will enjoy reading the stories of these wonderful young women. We wish them very well.

Dr Ann Hood

CEO RASNZ



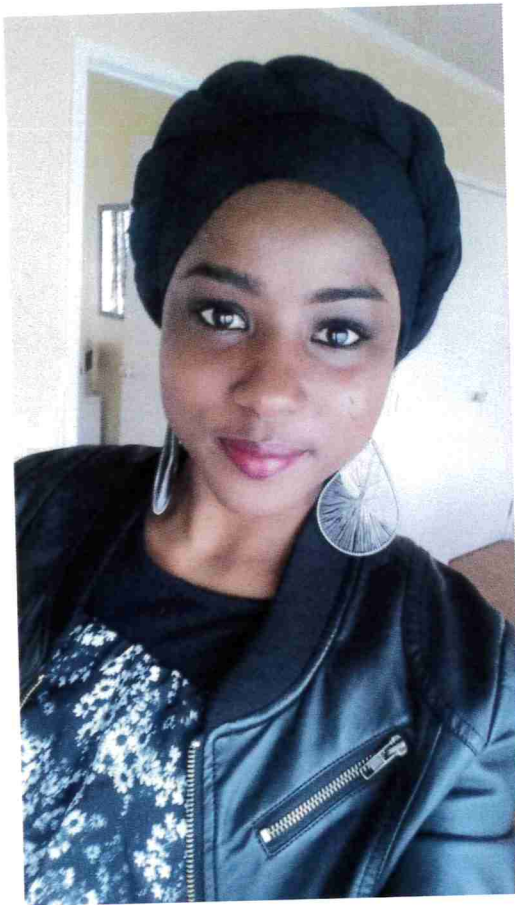
Naheed Saeid

In 2001, my family and I arrived in New Zealand from Afghanistan. Being part of a family of five and having to resettle in a completely new environment was, at times, incredibly overwhelming especially with the differences in language and cultural practices. 14 years later, and now a family of six, we've all grown to love the New Zealand way of life.

Before I started at the University of Auckland, I attended Auckland Girls' Grammar School where I was exposed to a diverse community of girls and this allowed me to really experience the multicultural aspect of Auckland. In 2016 I will be entering the third year of my BSc majoring in Physiology with a strong focus on neuroscience with the hopes of pursuing a career focused on researching neurodegenerative diseases and neural pathways.

My interests have changed over the years and after my second year at university, I've developed a huge interest in the human brain, how it works and, above all, what happens when the neural pathways start to break down. Aside from my brain obsession, I'm also very interested in Afghan culture, from music to books to documentaries. I am fascinated by my heritage and often spend hours trying to learn about the history and traditions. I also love going to the movies with my friends as well as reading and writing.

Being awarded this scholarship has been an amazing accomplishment for me as it means I will be able to finish my intended degree without the stress of a hefty student loan burdening me when I enter the workforce. It also gives me the opportunity to show the wider New Zealand community the value of refugees and that refugees are able to make significant contributions to society – something the media rarely sheds light on these days.



Fatumata Bah

I was born in the holy city of Mecca, in Saudi Arabia where my father was studying. When I was two years old we went back home to Freetown, Sierra Leone (West Africa). However, we did not stay for long due to the tension that was brewing between the government and rebel forces. On 12th November 1996, my family and I immigrated to Auckland, New Zealand as refugees fleeing the Sierra Leone civil war.

Upon arrival, elder sister and I were diagnosed with Sickle Cell Disease, or Sickle Cell Anaemia, as it is often referred to. Sickle Cell Anaemia is a genetic blood condition where the red blood cells are shaped in a sickle (crescent) shape, instead of the normal round biconcave disk shape. This serious illness causes the sickle shaped blood cells to get stuck in the blood vessels causing blockages (sickle cell crises/ pain episodes) and preventing oxygen from reaching vital organs amongst other issues.

Through complications of this disease, I have had my fair share of obstacles in life. In 2009, I had both my gallbladder and spleen removed within a month of each other. As a result, I now live with a compromised immunity. Although I missed out on a full school term, with the support of my family, doctors and teachers I was able to achieve NCEA Level 1 Endorsed with Merit. The disease has not prevented me from being an active member of the community or achieving my goals, if anything, it has been my motivation to triumph in the face of adversity.

My personal experience with my medical condition leads my interest in the health sector. I am currently studying a Bachelor of Health Science degree at AUT, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Business Management. I intend to enter the field of Health management, hoping to apply my knowledge to advance innovative solutions to the issues within the healthcare sector in New Zealand.

Receiving this prestigious scholarship means a lot to me and my family. It has removed the financial burden and allowed me to reduce my work hours and enjoy better health. I am now able to focus more on my studies and contribute to AUT in the form of the AUT African Students Club.

My medical condition has given me greater strength and resilience to be the best person that I can be and appreciate the valuable aspects of life. Being an active member of the community is the best way that I can give back to the great nation that is Aotearoa, a nation that has given me so much more than a safe place to live. I am proud to be a New Zealand citizen, an Afro-Kiwi at home, away from home.



Giselle Iradukunda

My name is Giselle Promise Iradukunda and I have just finished my last year of High school at Naenae College. I hope to do further study in the field of political science and international relations. I am the oldest of six children. My father, mother, my siblings and I moved to New Zealand as refugees in 2007 from Malawi. Originally I am from Rwanda but grew up in Malawi as a result of the Rwandan Genocide.

It is from surviving and overcoming this experience and subsequently moving to New Zealand that gave me the opportunity to be an active leader in my community. In the eight years that I have been here, it has been a transforming experience in terms of learning how to adapt to a New Zealand society. It has been very difficult to learn a whole new language and culture in just the eight years.

I feel very lucky to be in New Zealand, a country that allows young women to take full advantage of all opportunities that are available. I am truly honoured to be recipient of the Sir Robert Jones Refugee Daughter's Scholarship. As a young woman from a refugee background, I have had to live with the scars and the pain of not being able to grow up in my homeland due to the circumstances. This scholarship heals those scars. I believe that a nation can only change when we show empathy towards one another.

I truly believe that Sir Robert Jones has changed the circumstances of my family, me and the wider Naenae community. I have chosen to do a double major in political science and international relations, I am part of the world vision youth ambassador team for 2016 and I'm always looking for opportunities to help people. I feel like these two majors will give me an idea of the social status of our world and how to improve it. My goal is to work hard and continue to give back to my community and most importantly giving back to this country.

I attended Naenae College where the school motto is "Te whanau Tahi", which simply means we are one and we embrace diversity. It is no secret that the Naenae community is not as well developed as other communities around the area but Naenae College continues to embrace the spirit of "Te Whanau Tahi" in that we are one big family. I am inspired by this and I am truly inspired by this country just as my parents are by the kindness of Sir Robert Jones.



Grace Kamundu

My name is Grace Kamundu and I come from the Democratic Republic of Congo. I have six brothers and two sisters. I left Congo when I was five years old. My family and I moved to Uganda in 2005 to look for a safe and better settlement, because there were so many wars that were happening in Congo. We lived in Uganda for five years in the refugee camp. I only studied primary for two years due to financial problems we had in the family.

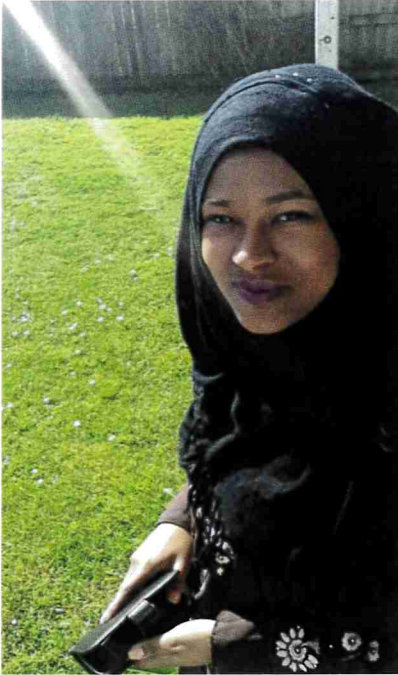
We moved to New Zealand in 2009. I started Intermediate as Year Eight in 2010. There were so many challenges I faced throughout the year as English was my second language. It was very difficult for me to communicate with others because of the new language. With the help of my teachers at intermediate and my friends I started feeling more

confident with people who were around me. This encouraged me more as I headed to high school. It was a huge challenge for me to pass NCEA. As I proceeded, my teachers and friends helped me a lot and I worked so hard every day after school so that I would be able to pass my NCEA internals and external exams. With this ongoing support, I was able to pass and I graduated with honors this year.

I'm very interested in business as I find it easy to solve some of the problems around this. Attending university next year means more difficult challenges that I'm going to encounter. Facing those challenges will allow and teach me how to overcome further issues that I will face in the real world of business. The scholarship has given me so many opportunities that I did not think I would ever have in life.

This is the time to show my family and community that I'm going to do my best and study hard and not give up at anytime. I will not fall short of this special award they have given to me because not everyone gets a chance like this in this world. This is the chance to study hard, as I never believed that I would be able to afford to attend university.

Thank you so much Sir Robert Jones for offering me this opportunity to further my education. You can be very sure I will not disappoint you; myself or anyone. I will do anything to make sure that I put apply all my work ethics to the highest standard,



Rahma Siraj

I would first like to give my thanks and utter gratitude for awarding me a place in this honorable scholarship programme. I am sure that this scholarship will allow me to excel in my chosen path of Law.

My name is Rahma Siraj, I'm 17 years old and from Eritrea. I arrived in New Zealand in February 1999 as an eight month old baby with my parents and three older sisters. My family's journey to New Zealand began in 1997 when civil unrest forced us to flee our home town of Adi Keih. My parents and three sisters made their way into Sudan where they lived in a refugee camp. This later became my birthplace. We lived in Sudan for a little under a year before coming to New Zealand as refugees. In 2011, my family changed when my father passed away. We have lived in the Hutt Valley for the past 16 years and I have attended school and college in Naenae.

My dream to become a lawyer has come from having a refugee background and growing up around former refugees. Although I have no memory of what it was like for my family being refugees and their first couple of years settling in New Zealand, I have learned that the experience is not one that ends within the first few years of resettlement. It is one that continues for many years ahead. I draw this statement from an experience in primary where I heavily relied on reading and comprehension because my parents were still not fluent speakers in English and were unable to help me with this aspect of my education. This experience has made me see that English is still a very big obstacle for former refugees. It hinders their confidence and esteem and affects essential aspects of their life such as getting a job. Once English is removed as a barrier, we can help former refugees maximize and develop whatever skills they have.

I strongly believe that refugees really do have a lot to offer in our society. Ultimately, I want to help refugees become productive members of New Zealand society by helping them overcome barriers which may be standing in their way and live the life they wished for by coming to this country. I feel that it's only natural for me to pursue a career in Law because I believe that it will give me the skills and knowledge to really help people. I would like to specialise in International and Human Rights Law. After graduating, I hope to get a job working for the Human Rights Commission of New Zealand. Eventually, I would love to be working for an international human rights organization such as Amnesty International. Right now, my mother supports me and my younger sister through social welfare. This year, I will be turning 18 and my mother will not be receiving as much support. Before receiving the scholarship, I felt inclined to get a part time job while in university as I wanted to support my household. I felt conflicted as I really want to be fully dedicated to my studies. Since receiving this scholarship I feel that this pressure has been released and I will be able to do my absolute best. Once again, I thank you very much for this wonderful opportunity of having a scholarship. I truly believe that it will set up an environment which nurtures my potential and provides me with what I need to succeed.



Juliana Gjo

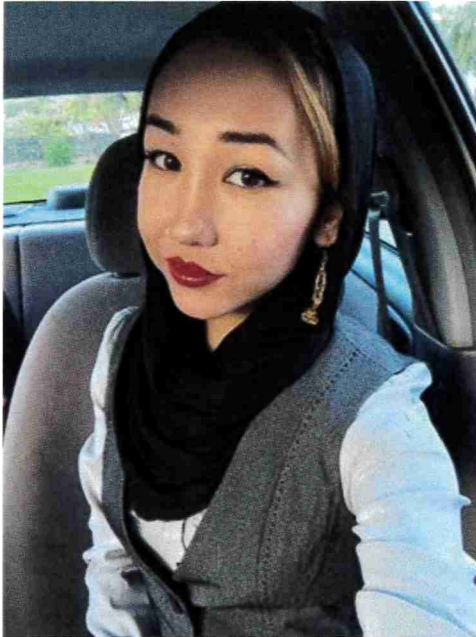
My name is Juliana Gjo. I was born in Myanmar but grew up in a Karenni refugee camp in Thai-Burma border. My other family members and I fled from our beloved motherland and moved to the refugee camp because it was unsafe due to poverty, political instability which consequentially resulting in regular battles between ethnic armies and the military government and lack of opportunities for personal and professional developments. We were, then, given a chance to migrate to New Zealand with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

I settled in New Zealand in 2009. That was one of the happiest moments of my life. I was so glad that I was able to come to a place where I could and can live safely and have better opportunity for education and employment. This place has given me new hopes and dreams that will, undoubtedly, allow me to live a safer and happier life with my relatives and my community.

Back in the refugee camp and in Myanmar, I have never touched a computer or understood how they work. Such technologies triggered curiosity in me. I wanted to know how continuously advancing technology like computers, internet and telecommunications influence our lives. How individuals can communicate with each other from different part of the world is one amazing example. For that reason, I decided to study Bachelor of Information Technology at Whitireia Community Polytechnic and wish to continue Postgraduate Diploma in Information Technology (IT) afterward.

Due to serious health issues and inability to absorb new skills in English Language, my parents could not find a job to support my tertiary education costs. Therefore, to be awarded by Sir Robert Jones Refugee Daughters' Scholarships Fund definitely gives me more courage to achieve my goal. With this award and my strong desire to succeed, I believe that I will be able to master as much knowledge as I expect in the world of IT. By doing so, I will also have wider chance of being a useful citizen of New Zealand and able to contribute something important back to my community.

I am sincerely thanking Sir Robert Jones and everyone who organized this scholarship for giving young refugees an opportunity to make their dream come true. Your help and support will always be appreciated. Because of this award, I earnestly believe that I will be able to make clearer decisions and braver steps toward my ambition. Thank you again.



Naziyeh Fayaz

My name is Naziyeh Fayaz and I will be a first year university student in 2016. The high school I have attended for the previous five years and have graduated from is Selwyn College in Kohimarama, Auckland.

Education is of significant importance to myself and my family. I have been very determined and worked hard to maintain my grades in school whilst having a part-time job as a waitress in order to become financially independent so that my parents do not have to struggle in any way to assist me.

I applied for this scholarship because I have identified my area of study as a worthwhile opportunity to make a difference. The potential to study at the University of Auckland and gain financial assistance will be a valuable contribution to my future. I come from a refugee background. My father migrated from Afghanistan to New Zealand in the year 2001 in a ship named 'Tampa' with many other refugees. After settling here, my father applied for my mother, siblings and myself to come to New Zealand, which fortunately got accepted. We arrived in New Zealand in March 2004.

The journey was a struggle for my father since his survival was not guaranteed. The difficulties he faced lead him to having mental and psychological issues, therefore preventing him from doing anything work related. Not only is this economically disadvantageous for us, but my mother has physical body problems and also due to her lack of English she is unable to work. As a result of this, both parents rely on Work and Income for financial support. The income they earn is not enough to support me, let alone all of us.

My family consists of 3 other siblings who, like myself, depend on my parents and their low levels of income for financial assistance. This is not enough to satisfy the needs that we all have. The Robert Jones Scholarship will be of great help since it will enable me to study to my fullest ability and to maximise my educational potential without having to take in to consideration our financial hardship and instability.

For my future education, I plan to attend University of Auckland to study a conjoint degree of Commerce and Health Science, The major I wish to do is Commercial Law since I have always had an interest in Business, conjoint with Psychology due to my curiosity in human behaviour. I believe this degree will help me earn a living in the future, better than my parents.

I would like to thank you for accepting me as one of the contenders for the Sir Robert Jones Scholarship. I feel very privileged and grateful to have this opportunity to make a better future not only for myself, but also for my family and the ethnic society that I live in. I will definitely prove myself worthy of this scholarship.



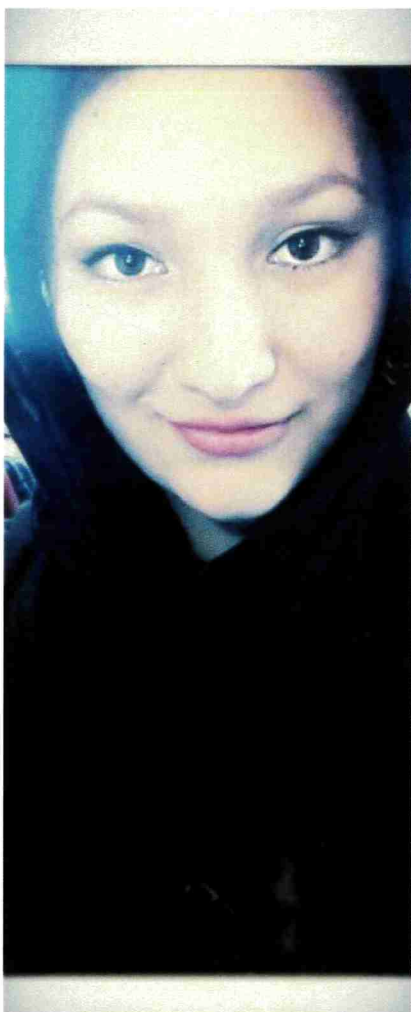
Suleqa Habbad

I migrated to New Zealand at the age of seven as a refugee from Kenya with my family. Adjusting to a new country was exciting and difficult, especially for my mother. However with time, and the generosity of New Zealanders, we eventually adapted to the new environment and culture. Watching my mother work hard towards providing for us was the greatest motivation for me to persevere to succeed in life. I was quick to develop a sense of responsibility for the choices I make in life. This has led me to pursue a career that makes a difference in the wider community. Involvement in numerous community volunteer activities has helped me understand the vitality of human

compassion and assisted me in my decision to study in the field of health care.

Currently I am studying towards a Bachelor of Medical Imaging in Christchurch. Prior to this I studied Bachelor of Health Science at the University of Auckland.

I am genuinely and deeply appreciative of being awarded the Sir Robert Jones Scholarship. Studying this programme requires increased financial commitment. I am required to rotate between academic study and clinical placement on a term by term basis. Through the generosity and the support of Sir Robert Jones it is possible for me to continue to achieve my educational and career goals. I want to take this opportunity to express my most sincere gratitude and appreciation to Sir Robert Jones for helping many students such as myself to pursue their desired career. His generosity has allowed me to be one step closer to my goals and aspiration. It has also inspired me to further give back to the community.



Shamsia Askari

My name is Shamsia Askari but, also known as Sara. I was originally born in Afghanistan but arrived in New Zealand in 2004 as a refugee with my 6 other siblings and parents.

Having come from a war torn country, I was determined to focus on my future in becoming a well-educated and open minded successful adult in life. I studied sciences throughout high school and loved the amazing wonders of it, thus I knew once I left for tertiary education I would like to pursue a career in science. So I completed my first year of health sciences at Otago University, and researched further into food science to finally become a food scientist.

This can simply be explained from the important meaning behind the famous quote “We are what we eat”. Hence in the future when I graduate as a food scientist, I want to go on to further studies of post graduate and hopefully complete my masters in Science from Auckland University. My long term goal is to eventually open a business combining both my food science knowledge and life experiences to enable more employment opportunities for our future food scientists in New Zealand, especially important for the development of our younger generation.

However all of these goals in life are only possible with the assistance of the Robert Jones Scholarship. Therefore I am very blessed and grateful for having this opportunity in life to finally complete my tertiary education and make my goals and dreams turn into reality one day.

Thanks to everyone who has organised such an amazing foundation for helping the young talented refugee women, who will eventually return back this incredible opportunity to future generations

God Bless.

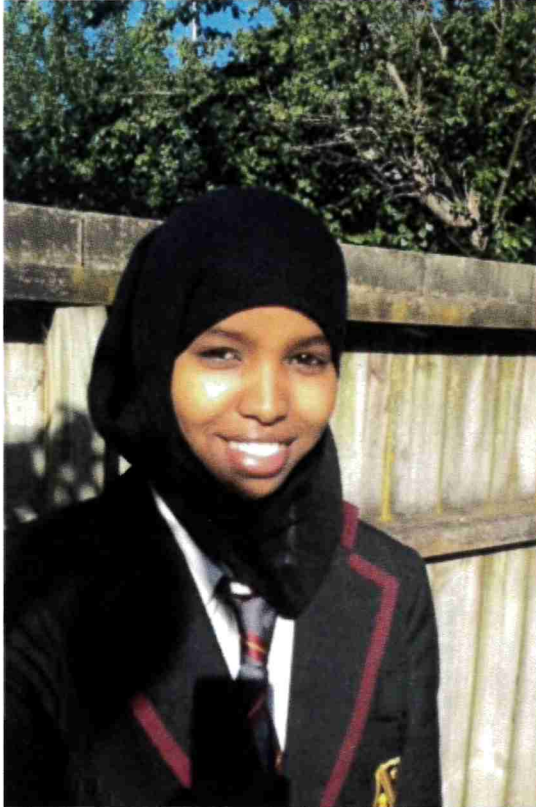


Mehria Nouri

I am originally from Afghanistan, but was accepted as a refugee by New Zealand in early 2005 from Iran, where I had been living for the past five years. I have a big, rowdy family and I fall right in the middle age-wise. I have an older brother and two older sisters who are my closest confidantes and advice-givers in everything I do. My two younger brothers keep me from maturing too quickly, always ready to rope me into their mischief. My mother and father are the most supportive people in my life, always encouraging me to become more than I thought I could be. They are both intellectuals and homeschooled my siblings and me in Iran, where due to our nationality, we were banned from formal schooling.

It was my experiences in Iran, as a young girl with a passion for words, that taught me the gravity and importance of education in our world. I could not undertake formal schooling under the law, but I did experience the classroom environment in an underground school for young girls that ran for six months, before it was shut down by rioters. At the age of six, this was the first time in my life that I was surrounded by peers of the same age, and I thrived on the competition. It was in this school too that I witnessed mass violence; rioters trying to break down the doors of the school as our teachers - young women fresh out of high school - stood before us, trying to shield our vision and protect us. It was then that I started asking the important questions; why can I not study? What is the harm in an ordinary person, a girl, learning to read? I came to understand the power education grants a person, especially a woman in an underdeveloped country, very intrinsically. At the age of seven, having newly moved to New Zealand, I promised myself that I would definitely graduate from University one day, and now I am on the threshold of achieving that goal.

However, starting tertiary study is far from the beginning of the end for me. I plan to use the Bachelor of Science I am studying towards to research resource management and how we can maintain and improve the plants and animals we have domesticated to provide for a rising population and keep up with a changing world. Humans have been genetically modifying organisms for thousands of years so that they better suit our purposes, and I believe that to continue this is the only way to provide for the world's population so that mass poverty and famine can be rectified and avoided. This is my way of trying to give back to the country and the world that has given me so much. I also have an interest in the social sciences and plan to pursue a second degree towards it, with a wide focus ranging from social work with NGO's to secondary level teaching. Receiving Sir Robert Jones' Scholarship for Refugee Daughters has been a boon for my family and me as it allows me to study to my heart's content without limiting my range of interests to decrease tuition fees that I would otherwise be unable to pay. It also allows me to live on campus, giving me a fuller University experience and allowing me to exercise independence over my life, in preparation for full-fledged adulthood.



Fartun Hirsi

My name is Fartun Hirsi and I'm originally from Somalia. I came to New Zealand in 2010 with both of my parents and six of my siblings. Settling in a totally new country with new language, culture and environment was truly challenging. I started my first school as a Year 8 student and I must say it was challenging as I did not speak English and appeared different from other students. However, despite all the challenges I had one goal in my mind and it was to succeed academically. I knew in order to achieve my goal I needed to be hardworking, ambitious and disciplined. Therefore, I focused on improving my English during Year 8.

It's during Year 9 that I found my interest in science. I really enjoyed my science lessons and it was always the class I looked forward to. At some point during 9th grade science became the only class I passed since I spent so much of my time on it due to how much I enjoyed science. I plan to study a Bachelor of Science

(Technology) at the University of Waikato.

Receiving the Sir Robert Jones Scholarship truly means a lot to my family and me. Since a young age, I have always dreamt of receiving a scholarship. I remember always going through photos of scholarship winners on the NZQA website, and hoping I will be one of them one day. Thus at a personal level, it's a dream come true. As for my family, especially my parents, it's less burden on their shoulders, as they worry less about supporting me financially.

We are truly thankful to Sir Robert Jones and the opportunity he has given to me and many other deserving young women. With the help of this great scholarship, I hope to achieve great things and continue to work hard, and to be ambitious and disciplined.



Hana Mender

My name is Hana Mender. I was born and raised in Sudan although my parents are from Eritrea. In September 2008 my mum and six of my sibling came to New Zealand under the Refugee Quota Programme. I successfully completed high school and currently I am a second year student in a Bachelor of Nursing at Auckland University of Technology. Outside school I am a youth leader at a community development project called Mixit, I'm also involved with the AUT African club and I am the current president.

The reason I want to be a nurse is because I'm passionate about helping people in any way I can and nursing allows you to care for strangers with one goal in mind-getting them to recovery and return to the best of health that they can be in. Over the past year and half I have had the opportunity to do my placement with Auckland and Waitakere Hospital and the experience I am gaining is priceless. I'm a firm believer in sharing and inspiring individuals. Getting this scholarship has shown my family members and friends that dreams can become a reality. With the weight of having to work and study lifted of my shoulder I am aiming to achieve higher grades in my studies this year. After I graduate I would like to do my post-graduate and further myself in education.

This scholarship means that I can stop stressing about a student loan, working while studying and most importantly it will act as a motivator to young people in my community specially girls to continue their studies and achieve all the success that they truly deserve.

I opened the email with the expectation that it would be another letter of "sorry you didn't make the cut", as that's usually what I get. I was shocked when I read congratulations I stopped reading after that word and started jumping and screaming and crying. I have never experience the tears of joy until now.

I would like to thank you for giving me and many girls like me to continue to believe in our dreams.



Sara Chapagai

I was born in Bhutan. I was just one year old when my parents and grandparents were evicted from Bhutan forcefully in 1992 due to ethnic and human rights problems as narrated by my parents. They were compelled to submit their ID cards and beaten. Since then we had to migrate and live a refugee life in the eastern part of Nepal. The life in the camps was horrible and my parents worked day and night to educate us. We are three siblings.

I acquired my primary education in the camps. I was an ambitious and hard-working student and have excelled in almost all the classes. On seeing my determination and my credit, CARITAS Nepal (an NGO working on behalf of the Bhutanese Refugees in

Nepal) sponsored me to one of the missionary schools to study Nursing as it was my passion.

There too I excelled and topped the college. Unfortunately I couldn't complete the four years nursing degree because of our migration to a third country settlement through UNHCR.

With hope and faith to complete my degree, I arrived in New Zealand as a refugee settler in September 2014. I missed the scholarship provided by Sir Robert Jones. I tried through RASNZ but it was too late. Having no other alternatives I joined an English language course at NMIT Nelson.

Finally UCOL accepted me for the course on seeing my previous marks and NZQA equivalence assessment. My parents are jobless and there is no hope of paying the course fees and lodges as well. On the other hand my family lives in Nelson. Still I didn't lose hope and joined UCOL. Here too I proved myself to be an "A" average student which is a great achievement given that I am a foreign student and deprived of everything. I am confident that I will definitely prove to be studious and the best student and will not let Sir Robert Jones regret sponsoring me.

I am hoping to acquire the highest degree in nursing so that I may be able to serve the sick and needy citizens of New Zealand. Not only that but also it will be a pride to my parents who were deprived of their land and property in Bhutan.

My parents dream to give me good education will be fulfilled then.

Thanusiya Vijayarajan



My name is Thanusiya Vijayarajan. I am a New Zealand permanent resident. I came from Sri Lanka with my family under the Refugee Quota into New Zealand. I am a nineteen year old Year 13 student at Hutt Valley High School. My father is working as a labourer for a joiner and my mother is not employed. I have two siblings aged 17 and 9. I only received a formal proper education after I came to New Zealand just three years ago. In the community I have been volunteering and helping the elderly in Woburn Home. Academically, I have been rapidly improving myself to achieve my ambition.

The civil war in my country forced me to migrate to other countries. I left Sri Lanka when I was 10 and I have been as a refugee for seven and a half years. I stayed in Malaysia and Indonesia where I have seen the impact of poverty resulting in death for a lot of people. I am interested in all aspects of helping society with health including researching causes and solutions to health and disease issues.

My ambition is to become a doctor. I feel that my vocation is to help people through giving them a healthy life and helping people is one of the most important things I could do and offer back to the society. In the summer of 2014 I won a place at the Otago university "Hands-On Science" program for which I was generously given a Freemasons Scholarship to attend the fantastic week of opportunity. This experience showed me what I really wanted to do. To achieve this, I am choosing to do a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Food Science, as this will better secure my successful pathway into the Health Science degree in the future.

I am very realistic about the challenges this course will demand of me but I believe my past experience has equipped me well with resilience and determination to succeed. My focus and dream is to work in the health field. This is my passion.

I love New Zealand and Hutt Valley High School. I am so grateful to Sir Robert Jones for this amazing, generous opportunity.