

The Ministry for Primary Industries Postgraduate Science Scholarship

The Ministry for Primary Industries is looking to the future and wants to help build the workforce that the primary industries will need. We want to support the development of skills and capability that will be vital across the primary industries value chain, from production to consumer. The MPI Postgraduate Science Scholarship programme is aimed at addressing critical science capability gaps and vulnerabilities in the primary industries, including the animal welfare, biosecurity and food systems.

The scholarship will provide financial support to students undertaking Masters and PhD degrees. Masters students will receive up to \$12,000 over two years and PhD students will receive up to \$50,000 over four years, to be used as a contribution towards fees and living costs. In addition to funding, MPI will provide mentoring or co-supervision support from MPI scientists.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must:

- be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- be a candidate for a Masters or PhD at a New Zealand tertiary education institution
- be enrolled at or intending to enrol at a New Zealand tertiary education institution
- have a supervisor who holds a position at a New Zealand tertiary education institution
- propose research that is relevant and meets a capability need for MPI or the primary industries
- not be an MPI employee or hold any source of funding from MPI

Process:

Stage 1: Requires applicants to provide a personal statement, research proposal, academic CV and recent academic transcripts (within the last 10 years).

Stage 2: Successful applicants will be invited to give a presentation and be interviewed via skype.

Background information:

What are the primary industries?

MPI takes a broad approach to defining the primary industries, taking into account the whole value chain, from production to the consumer, and all the systems and services that are needed to support the value chain. This includes industries involved in designing and developing food and fibre products, and the biomaterials and by-products from production systems.

Why is science important for the primary industries?

The [Primary Sector Science Roadmap](#) identifies eight priority areas for science in the primary industries over the next 10 to 20 years. These priority areas reflect current and future gaps in knowledge and capability. Supporting development in these areas will

enhance New Zealand's primary sector, the economy, sustainable resource use and the wellbeing of New Zealanders.

Scientific disciplines that are important to the primary industries include the biophysical, social, engineering, information technology and economic fields. Science is critical for:

- developing government policy and regulation to protect and enhance natural resources
- developing new and higher-value products and help industry to innovate
- increasing productivity within environmental limits, particularly those related to soil and water
- providing evidence that underpins our reputation in overseas markets
- adapting to the impacts of climate change
- developing and maintaining regulations that ensure the safety, sustainability and integrity of primary production, and the safety of those working in the sector
- having robust animal welfare, biosecurity and food safety systems
- building connections to international centres and networks to extend our capability for decision making and innovation
- contributing to addressing global issues, such as food security and sustainable fisheries
- understanding the needs and drivers of people, producers, processors and consumers

Application Form

- Please complete this form electronically (there are three pages)
- Submit to Science@mpi.govt.nz
- Applications close 5pm on 8 December 2019. Late applications will not be accepted.

APPLICANT'S CONTACT DETAILS				
First names:		Surname:		
Date of Birth:				
Gender:				
Contact phone number:				
Personal email address:				
CONTACT ADDRESS				
Number and Street:				
Suburb:				
Town/City:			Postcode:	
CITIZENSHIP & ETHNICITY				
<input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand Permanent Resident				
Ethnicity:				
Iwi affiliation (if applicable):				
ACADEMIC DETAILS				
Tertiary education institution:				
School/Department:				
Degree enrolled in:				
Start date (month and year) of your current degree:				
Previous study at other tertiary institutions:				
Institution	Place + country	Year begun	Year completed	Name of degree/diploma/certificate etc.

RESEARCH DETAILS

What is your research topic?

What primary industry/s is your research relevant to?

WHAT CAPABILITY NEEDS WILL YOUR RESEARCH ENABLE YOU TO MEET?

The 2020 Ministry for Primary Industries Postgraduate Science Scholarship is aiming to develop skills and science capability in the following areas. Please tick each area that you will gain skills in during your research.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Social science research, including implications and public perceptions of new technologies, behavioural change, uptake of science and technology, economics and maintaining social and cultural licence to operate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrating Kaupapa Māori, mātauranga and tikanga approaches into all aspects of primary industries science
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consumer and market insights research, including consumer preferences and economics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Developing new technologies for precision agriculture, particularly in robotics, automation, and process engineering
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understanding and using big data, including interoperability of data and systems, information management systems and data mining
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large-scale approaches to genetics, considering genomics, data modelling, statistics and direct applications of gene technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Systems approaches to measuring and managing environmental and ecosystem impacts.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxonomy and systematics at all scales including terrestrial and aquatic micro- and macro-biota, and virology.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understanding complex systems such as the microbiome, metagenomics, environmental genomics, and plant-microbial associations.

PERSONAL STATEMENT (up to 1000 words)

Please attach a personal statement that covers:

- Why you think you should be awarded an MPI Postgraduate Scholarship
- How your studies will meet one or more of the capability or skills needs we have identified
- Your career aspirations

SUPERVISOR STATEMENT (up to 1000 words)

Please have your supervisor write a statement that covers:

- Their support for your application for an MPI Postgraduate Scholarship
- Their commitment to your research success and career development
- Their willingness to support your relationship with our MPI supervisor

CHECKLIST

I have applied for, or intend to apply for admission to a Masters or PhD programme

I have written my own personal statement of 1000 words or less

I have attached my two page academic CV

I have attached my research proposal

I have attached my recent (within last 5 years) academic transcripts

DECLARATION

I confirm all the information supplied and attached is true and correct

I confirm that I am not an MPI employee or have received any funding from MPI

Applicant's Signature:

Date: