

# 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 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 \$12,000 over two years and PhD students will receive \$50,000 over four years, to be used as a contribution towards fees and living costs. In addition to funding, MPI will provide support in the form of mentoring or co-supervision from MPI staff.

## **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; and
- not be an MPI employee.

## **Capability needs in the primary industries:**

The Ministry for Primary Industries Postgraduate Science Scholarship aim is to develop skills and science capability in:

1. Social research including implications and public perceptions of new technologies, behavioural change, uptake of science and technology, and maintaining social and cultural licence to operate.
2. Integrating Kaupapa Māori, mātauranga and tikanga approaches into all aspects of primary industries science.
3. Consumer and market insights research, including consumer preferences and economics.
4. Developing new technologies for precision agriculture, particularly in robotics, automation, and process engineering.
5. Understanding and using big data, including interoperability of data and systems, information management systems and data mining.
6. Large-scale approaches to genetics, considering genomics, data modelling, statistics and direct applications of gene technologies.
7. Systems approaches to measuring and managing environmental and ecosystem impacts such as ecosystem-based management, and epidemiology.

8. Taxonomy and systematics at all scales including terrestrial and aquatic micro- and macro-biota, and virology.
9. Understanding complex systems such as the microbiome, metagenomics, environmental genomics, and plant-microbial associations.

### **Process:**

**Stage 1:** Requires applicants to provide a personal statement, CV and academic transcripts.

**Stage 2:** Successful applicants will be invited to submit a research proposal and statement from research supervisor. Applicants must be available to give a presentation and be interviewed, in Wellington, between 3 and 9 May 2018.

### **Background information:**

*What are the primary industries?*

The Ministry for Primary Industries 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; and

- understanding the needs and drivers of people, producers, processors and consumers.

## Application Form

- Please complete this form electronically
- Submit to [ScienceAndSkillsPolicy@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:ScienceAndSkillsPolicy@mpi.govt.nz)
- No applications will be accepted after 5pm on 12 March 2018.

### APPLICANT'S CONTACT DETAILS

First names: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Surname: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Date of Birth: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Gender:  Male  Female  Other

Contact phone number: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Personal email address: [Click here to enter text.](#)

### CONTACT ADDRESS

Number and Street: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Suburb: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Town/City: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Postcode: [Click here to enter text.](#)

### CITIZENSHIP & ETHNICITY

- New Zealand Citizen  
 New Zealand Permanent Resident

Ethnicity: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Iwi affiliation (if applicable): [Click here to enter text.](#)

**ACADEMIC DETAILS**

Tertiary education institution: [Click here to enter text.](#)

School/Department: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Programme: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Previous study at other tertiary institutions:

Institution	Place + country	Year begun	Year completed	Name of degree/diploma/certificate etc.
<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	Year.	Year.	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	Year.	Year.	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	Year.	Year.	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>

**PERSONAL STATEMENT (up to 1000 words)**

Please cover:

- Why you think you should get a postgraduate scholarship from MPI
- How your studies will meet one or more of the capability or skills needs we have identified in the supporting documents
- Your career aspirations

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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**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 CV
- I have attached my academic transcripts

**DECLARATION**

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

Applicant's Signature: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)