



2008

Fulbright New Zealand

Grantees Booklet





The Fulbright Programme

The Fulbright programme of international educational exchange was an initiative of American Senator J. William Fulbright from Arkansas, who in the aftermath of World War II believed that mutual understanding between different countries and cultures was crucial to ensure a peaceful future for the world.

The Fulbright Act, an ingenious piece of legislation passed by the United States Congress in 1946, directed proceeds from the sale of surplus war property, foreign loan repayments and reparations to fund the “promotion of international good will through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture, and science.”

In Senator Fulbright's own words, the Fulbright programme aims “to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship.”

New Zealand was the fifth country to sign up to the Fulbright programme by bilateral treaty with the United States of America, in 1948. Since then Fulbright New Zealand has sent more than 1,400 New Zealand graduate students, artists, academics and professionals to the US and welcomed more than 1,100 Americans on exchanges here.

Fulbright New Zealand is jointly funded by the US and New Zealand governments with additional funding from award sponsors, private philanthropists and alumni donors. It is governed by a twelve member Board of Directors comprised of six New Zealanders and six Americans.

The Fulbright programme has been described as one of the largest and most significant movements of scholars across the face of the earth and now operates in over 150 countries, funding around 6,000 exchanges per year for participants to study, research and teach in another country.

The more than 300,000 Fulbright alumni worldwide include heads of state, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, politicians, judges, heads of corporations, university presidents, journalists, artists, professors and teachers.

Esteemed alumni of the Fulbright programme include Alan MacDiarmid, Dame Marie Clay, Sir Wallace Rowling, Allen Curnow, Dame Jean Herbison, Sir Kenneth Keith, C. K. Stead, Bill Manhire, Jamie Belich, Michael King, Witi Ihimaera, David Cunliffe and many other significant New Zealanders.

Fulbright grantees make the most of their exchanges to get to know and understand a different country and culture, to advance themselves academically or professionally and to make lifelong friendships and professional relationships. Many look back on their Fulbright exchange as a life-changing experience and a defining moment of their career.

Fulbright New Zealand

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Message from the Chairperson

On behalf of the Board of Fulbright New Zealand, congratulations to all of this year's grantees!

This is a very special year for Fulbright New Zealand as 2008 marks the 60th year of the Fulbright programme in New Zealand. I am confident that this year's grantees, as with so many of our 2,500-odd alumni from the previous 59 years, will find their Fulbright exchange experience to be truly life-changing and go on to make us all extremely proud with their achievements and contributions to their home countries and the wider world.

During 2007 the Fulbright New Zealand Board and staff worked together to develop a new five-year Strategic Plan for 2008-2012 with five broad goals to:

- Increase the opportunities for educational exchange;
- Provide an outstanding Fulbright experience;
- Strengthen the Fulbright network;
- Broaden the sphere of influence; and
- Demonstrate leadership and innovation.

We believe that this new plan will strengthen our ongoing commitment to honouring Senator J. William Fulbright's vision of increasing mutual understanding between our two countries through educational exchange.

We are committed to growing the New Zealand Fulbright programme and I would like to highlight our newest award, the Fulbright-Cognition Education Research Trust Scholar Award in Education Research, which was launched earlier this year in partnership with Cognition Education Research Trust (CERT) and will be presented for the first time at next year's ceremony.

We acknowledge the support of the New Zealand and American governments over the past six decades. I thank also the Ministry of Education, MoRST, EQC, Creative New Zealand and CERT for their sponsorship of additional awards, as well as the private donors and alumni who generously contribute to the programme with donations or their service on selection panels and as Fulbright Campus Advisers.

We hope that many alumni and others will join us in Auckland this November for our 60th Anniversary Conference, which will focus on "Creative Partnerships" between New Zealand and the US, celebrating the success of our programme and showcasing its many talented participants.

I wish all our new grantees the very best for your Fulbright exchange and onwards into the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruth Harley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ruth" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Harley".

Ruth Harley
Chairperson of the Board, Fulbright New Zealand
Fulbright alumna, 1985

Fulbright Student Programme

Fulbright New Zealand offers a range of awards to New Zealand and American graduate students to study or research in each other's countries. Grantees are selected on the basis of academic excellence, personal and ambassadorial qualities.

In addition to award payments towards study or research, all grantees receive return airfares, insurance cover and programme support during their stay.

International Fulbright Science and Technology Awards

These awards are for promising graduate students from around the world to undertake fully-funded PhD study at top US universities in fields of science, technology or engineering.

Approximately 40 awards with an estimated value over NZ\$350,000 are offered internationally each year to students who are nominated by their home country's Fulbright commission and selected by rigorous international competition.



Alana Alexander

Alana Alexander from Auckland will complete a PhD in Wildlife, specialising in the population genetics and evolution of sperm whales, at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Alana graduated with a BSc (Hons) from the University of Auckland in 2008.



Wynton Moore

Wynton Moore from Dunedin will complete a PhD in Physics, specialising in structure formation in the early universe, at the University of Chicago.

Wynton obtained a BSc (Hons) from the University of Otago in 2006 and is currently completing an MSc.

Fulbright-Platinum Triangle Scholarship in Entrepreneurship

This award is for a promising New Zealand graduate student to complete a Master's degree at a US university in a knowledge economy-related field, and to gain professional work experience in the US and New Zealand.

One award valued at US\$100,000 (plus travel expenses, insurance and a paid internship) is offered each year.



Fiona Miller

Fiona Miller from Hamilton will complete a Master of Business Administration degree at the University of California, Berkeley.

Fiona graduated with a BAppSc (Hons) from Massey University in 1998 and has since worked for Massey University, Livestock Improvement, AgResearch and WaikatoLink.

Fulbright-Ministry of Research, Science and Technology Graduate Awards

These awards are for promising New Zealand graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research at US institutions in areas targeted to support growth and innovation in New Zealand.

Approximately 11 awards valued at up to US\$25,000 (plus travel expenses and insurance) are offered each year.



Josephine Beck

Josephine Beck from Christchurch will research the vocal repertoire of orangutans at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Josephine graduated with a BSc (Hons) from the University of Canterbury in 2006 and has since worked for the University's School of Biological Sciences.



Adam Forbes

Adam Forbes from Wellington will complete a Master of Science degree in Management Science and Engineering, specialising in information science and technology, at Stanford University in Stanford, California.

Adam graduated with a BAppSc (Hons) in Software Engineering from the University of Otago in 2006 and has since worked for IBM.



Lucy Hawcroft

Lucy Hawcroft from Auckland will complete a Master of Environmental Science degree in Conservation Psychology, specialising in cross-cultural differences in attitudes and responses to climate change, at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Lucy graduated with a BA (Hons) from the University of Auckland in 2007 and has since worked for Greenpeace.



Rick Henry

Rick Henry from Auckland will research seismic behaviour of precast concrete wall systems at Iowa State University in Ames, towards a PhD in Engineering from the University of Auckland.

Rick obtained a BE (Hons) from the University of Auckland in 2007.



William Kelton

William Kelton from Te Pahu will complete a PhD in Chemical Engineering, specialising in bioresponsive polymers and drug delivery techniques, at the University of Texas, Austin.

William obtained a BE (Hons) from the University of Canterbury in 2007 and is currently completing an MSc.



Shaun McGirr

Shaun McGirr from Christchurch will complete a PhD in Political Science, specialising in policy effects on software, infrastructure and telecommunications markets, at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Shaun graduated with a BA from the University of Canterbury in 2005 and a BA (Hons) from Victoria University of Wellington in 2008.



Josie McVitty

Josie McVitty from Palmerston North will complete a Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering, specialising in the relationships between science, technology and society with regard to energy and climate change challenges, at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Josie graduated with a BE (Hons) and BA from the University of Auckland in 2008.



Rahul Mehta

Rahul Mehta from Auckland will complete a PhD in Electrical Engineering, specialising in wireless communication technology, at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Rahul graduated with a BE (Hons) from the University of Auckland in 2007 and has since worked for Kordia.



Hiren Mulchandani

Hiren Mulchandani from Auckland will complete a Master of Science degree in Materials Science and Engineering, specialising in applications of novel biomaterials, at Stanford University in Stanford, California.

Hiren graduated with a BSc (Hons) from the University of Auckland in 2008 and has since worked for the University's Department of Pharmacology.



Hiten Mulchandani

Hiten Mulchandani from Auckland will complete a Master of Science degree and PhD in Aeronautics and Astronautics, specialising in aircraft systems engineering, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

Hiten graduated with a BE (Hons) from the University of Auckland in 2008 and has since worked for the University's Centre for Advanced Composite Materials.



Monique Ryan

Monique Ryan from Auckland will complete a Master of Science degree in Computer Science, specialising in software design for safety critical applications, at Stanford University in Stanford, California.

Monique graduated with a BE and BA from the University of Auckland in 2004 and has since worked for Fisher & Paykel Healthcare and Beca.



Damian Scarf

Damian Scarf from Dunedin will research episodic memory in non-human species at Columbia University in New York, towards a PhD in Psychology from the University of Otago.

Damian obtained an MSc from the University of Otago in 2007.



Dmitri Schebarchov

Dmitri Schebarchov from Wellington will research metal nanoparticles and their applications in nanodevices at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, towards a PhD in Physics from Victoria University of Wellington.

Dmitri obtained a BCA in 2005 and a BSc (Hons) in 2006 from Victoria University of Wellington.



Jethro van Ekeren

Jethro van Ekeren from Hamilton will complete a PhD in Mathematics, specialising in representation theory, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

Jethro obtained a BSc from the University of Waikato in 2007 and is currently completing a BSc (Hons).

Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research

This award is for a promising New Zealand graduate student to undertake postgraduate study or research at a US institution in the area of natural disaster research.

One award valued at up to US\$25,000 (plus travel expenses and insurance) is offered each year.

However, two awards are being presented this year.



Geoff Rodgers

Geoff Rodgers from Christchurch will research damage free structural design at Texas A&M University in College Station, towards a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Canterbury.

Geoff obtained a BE (Hons) from the University of Canterbury in 2006.



Aaron Wilson

Aaron Wilson from Auckland will research unreinforced masonry buildings in New Zealand at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, towards a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Auckland.

Aaron obtained a BE (Hons) from the University of Auckland in 2007.



Fulbright New Zealand

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