



Tessa Strang

Gaining a MIA undergraduate scholarship has helped Tessa Strang gain employment and valuable experience in the red meat sector during her university holidays.

Tessa, from Whanganui, is in her first year of studying for a Bachelor of Agribusiness degree at Lincoln University. She has already spent two of her holidays working for South Pacific Meats at Malvern in Canterbury. She is preparing to spend her next university holiday, closer to home, working for Chef's Choice, wholesaler suppliers of quality meats to the food service sector.

"I grew up on a lifestyle block and I have always been interested in business and commerce but felt this degree will give me more options in the workforce, when I graduate, than a straight business or commerce degree," says Tessa.

"I wanted to get experience in the red meat sector so I contacted MIA and they suggested I get in contact with South Pacific Meats and having the scholarship definitely helped my application.

"The first holiday I worked there, I was on the slaughterboard. It was really good experience starting from where the product starts out in the process.

"The next holiday, I worked on their stockyard handbook programme, gathering a lot of information together, for staff and customers."

Tessa sees her future firmly in the primary sector.

"I'm not sure what it will be yet," she says. "But I am very interested in working in the meat sector and adding value to the end product. I am passionate about food safety and sustainability and how that is tied into marketing."