



Summer job at processing plant leads to career plan

A summer job at Alliance Group's Lorneville processing plant near Invercargill highlighted to student Tully Paterson the many career opportunities in the red meat sector.

"I always knew I wanted to work in business but I didn't know what aspect," says Tully, who is in her second year at the University of Auckland studying law, politics and anthropology and is a 2021 MIA Undergraduate Scholar.

"But since beginning my studies I've become very interested in corporate law and see my career going that way. I have close relatives who are farmers, so I have spent a lot of time on farms and my father is the group manager maintenance and reliability for Alliance Group.

"In the summer of 2020, I worked in the processing room at Lorneville as a labourer, boxing meat. It was a great experience seeing all of that process.

"Until you work in that environment, you don't realise everything that goes into processing meat and all the career opportunities, yet it is such a massive part of our New Zealand economy. I thought it would be a really interesting industry to get into. I'd like to eventually work in corporate law in the red meat sector."

In her most recent summer holidays, Tully returned to the plant for three months, this time working in the payroll office.

The MIA awards six undergraduate scholarships providing \$5,000 a year for each year of study and four post-graduate scholarships of \$10,000 for each year of study annually. They are aimed at students considering a future in New Zealand's red meat sector. The MIA also runs a mentoring programme for its scholars, including a networking and educational event each year in Wellington.

"The scholarship is really helpful for me," says Tully. "I'm really looking forward to the mentoring opportunities. It is also very expensive to live and study in Auckland so this will help me to focus more on my studies."