

MIA scholarship leads to foot on the industry career ladder for Harriet

Being awarded an MIA undergraduate scholarship helped Harriet Watson get a foot on the career ladder in the sector. Now she's looking forward to taking the New Zealand red meat story to the world.

"I contacted the GM Sales and Marketing at ANZCO Foods' corporate office in Christchurch, just to ask if I could go in and talk about what they do," says Harriet, who is in the final year of her Bachelor of Agribusiness and Food Marketing degree at Lincoln University.

"When they found that I had an MIA scholarship, they invited me in to follow members of the team around for a few days – and that led to an internship and I'm hoping to join the company when I graduate."

Harriet is in the third year of her undergraduate scholarship. Six are offered every year, with an award of \$5000 per year for each year of study. Part-time or vacation work in the meat industry may be offered.

Harriet grew up on her family's beef farm near Darfield and has always had a passionate interest in 'where food comes from'.

"There was a point where I became aware that not all the world has the same understanding about that," she says. "So I have long been passionate about telling that story, especially around New Zealand's red meat sector and helping people to understand the natural way we farm here."

In the summer holidays before starting at Lincoln, Harriet worked in the offices at South Pacific Meats in Malvern.

"Then, for the next holidays, I started at ANZCO and I have interned there for every holiday since," she says. "I basically assist in any department that needs me. This year I have been working with the Sales Co-ordinator for China. That has been incredible – gaining experience that I could never have dreamed of. I'm loving my studies and the internship."

"I really enjoy the variety of the ANZCO work, I'm getting a very good understanding of the whole supply chain, from production and logistics through to sales. I'm looking forward to a future in the sector, taking the New Zealand red meat story to customers overseas."

"I'm just passionate about this industry – and the MIA is doing a great job, through the scholarships, of raising awareness among young people and encouraging them to consider it as a career path."