



## **NEW ZEALAND MEAT INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIP REGULATIONS**

Version 2.1 – September 2023

### **Introduction**

The Meat Industry Association (MIA) Scholarship Programme was established in 2017 to provide a pathway for undergraduate and graduate students to pursue a career in the New Zealand Red Meat Processing Industry.

From 2017 to 2022 the scheme was financed by the Food Innovations Training Trust and administered by the New Zealand Meat Industry Association (MIA). From 2022 all new scholarships are financed directly by MIA Inc and tighten selection criteria applied to focus on a smaller group of top students pursuing a career in the Red Meat Processing Sector.

### **Purpose**

The New Zealand meat industry is one of New Zealand's largest industries, exporting over \$11 billion worth of product annually and employing more than 24,000 people. In the past three decades the industry has transformed itself, developing new products, adopting new technologies and automating production, and selling to new overseas markets. To grow in future, the industry needs ambitious and highly skilled people.

The main purpose of the scholarship is to provide a pathway for school leavers, undergraduate and graduate students into the New Zealand meat processing industry. The programme recruits highly skilled young people who have the potential to become future leaders in the meat processing and export industry.

### **Scholarship details**

All MIA Scholar's receive:

- Financial support for their studies during their tenure on the programme
- Assistance to secure vacation or part-time work with the New Zealand meat processing industry
- Access to the MIA Scholarship Mentor Programme

At the completion of their programme of study scholars are encouraged to pursue a career in the meat processing industry. MIA does not guarantee employment in the sector post study but experience suggests Alumni may be sort after by meat companies for their graduate programmes or employment after participating in the programme.

### Value and Tenure

	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Postgraduate</b>
<b>Award</b>	\$5,000 pa	\$10,000 pa.
<b>Tenure+</b>	Up to three years	Up to two years
<b>Applicable study</b>	Bachelors' or Diploma programme	Masters' or Doctoral programme
<b>Institution</b>	New Zealand university or Te Pūkenga	New Zealand university or Pūkenga or an approved International University*

+ may be extended depending on the programme of study

\* approval of the international institution as an eligible place of study is at the discretion of MIA

### Eligibility Criteria:

- **Be currently studying with Te Pūkenga or any NZ university,**
- **Your current programme of study includes a focus on one or more of the following disciplines of relevance to the meat industry:** food sciences and engineering, human resource management, environmental science, international marketing, law, finance, process design, industrial innovation, etc.
- New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

The scholarship is **not designed** for students whose focus is an on-farm career (e.g. farm ownership/management, rural banking, veterinarians, on-farm advisories, etc). Farming might be a part of the skillset the applicant has in their background, but their focus must be on a career in the processing sector.

### Number

In any year MIA may vary the number of scholarships available.

MIA is responsible for deciding on the relevancy of your application and chosen study programme to the meet the skill needs of the Meat Processing and export industry.

### Scholar Obligations

MIA Scholars must fulfil the following obligations during their tenure on the programme:

- Undertake vacation or part-time employment within the meat processing or export industry or a closely aligned business during the calendar year their scholarship is awarded. It is noted that MIA can assist in identifying opportunities for employment, but it is the scholar's responsibility to secure a suitable role
- Maintain good grades and remain on-track with their studies
- Participation in the Scholarship Mentoring Programme and Annual Scholars workshop
- Complete an annual report detailing their studies and employment experiences during the calendar year their scholarship is awarded.

MIA will also seek consent from all scholars to participate in promotion of the scheme which may include media interviews, social media, and postings to the MIA scholar's website page.

## Scholarship Mentoring Programme

MIA offers mentoring to all scholars on the programme which includes:

- One-on-one meetings with the MIA Scholars Programme Mentor
- Group meetings of the MIA Scholarship recipients. This includes both online meetings and face-to-face
- Annual MIA Scholar's workshop. The face-to-face workshop is held in conjunction with the Annual Red Meat Sector Conference,
  - o The workshop includes a mini-project that scholars must complete at the event
  - o Scholars are provided with complimentary tickets to attend the annual Red Meat Sector Conference and gala dinner (including accommodation and travel expenses)
- Introductions and assistance to secure vacation or part-time employment with a meat processing or export industry company. As noted above MIA can assist in identifying opportunities for employment, but it is the scholar's responsibility to secure a suitable role

## Scholarship Application Process

### *Applications*

MIA runs an annual process for its scholarship programme. Applications are generally accepted during October-December, with the opening and closing dates for the process advertised on the MIA website at <https://mia.co.nz/join-the-industry/mia-scholarships/meat-industry-scholarship/>. MIA does not accept applications outside of this process.

Candidates should complete an application using the scholarship's application on the [MIA website](#). Both new and returning scholars must complete an application form.

All new applicants must provide:

1. Evidence of New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency.
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV), which includes details of qualifications, employment and distinctions.
3. A 500–800-word essay which:
  - a. Describes their studies and how it is relevant to the meat processing industry
  - b. Explains their interest in and objectives for a career in the red meat processing or exporting industry.
4. The names of two referees who can comment on the person's potential to succeed in their chosen programme and in the meat processing industry. Referees should not be family members.

Returning Scholars must provide:

1. Proof that they have fulfilled their obligations under the scholarship programme, specifically that they:
  - a. Have completed and passed their previous year's courses
  - b. Were employed in the industry over the previous calendar year
  - c. Submitted an annual report detailing their studies and employment experiences during the calendar year their scholarship is awarded
2. An updated Curriculum Vitae

### *Selection*

MIA has the responsibility of assessing all applications and making the decisions on the scholarship awards.

Potential candidates will be shortlisted by the MIA panel of assessors and maybe required to undertake an interview before the panel as part of the application process.

The assessors' decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

### *Selection Criteria*

The selection criteria used by MIA in its assessments include, but are not limited to:

- Academic achievements and potential.
- Interest in a future career in the meat processing and export industry or other closely-aligned industry.
- The relevance of the area of study to the meat processing and export industry (see above).
- Potential future contribution to the industry
- Providing an opportunity to those less likely to get higher education due to circumstances or hardship

### *Payments and Reports*

Payment to scholars of award funds will be made at the start of each academic year of their tenure. Payment for returning scholars is subject to fulfilling obligations to the programme as outlined above.

Full details of the payment schedule and the requirement for progress reports will be contained in the letter of offer.

### *Upon completion*

At the completion of their programme of study

- Scholars are encouraged to pursue a career in the meat processing industry. The MIA Scholarships programme does not guarantee employment to its graduates, but experience suggests alumni are often sort after by meat companies for their graduate programmes or future employment.
- Scholars should complete a "final report" for MIA outlining:
  - Details of their studies
  - The experiences, challenges and opportunities they had while studying
  - The benefits the scholarship offered
  - Future plans for their career

### *Suspension or Termination*

MIA has the right to request part or all funding be repaid should the scholar

- Withdraw from their courses
- Obtain the MIA Scholarship by deception or any other false means
- Fail to meet the obligations/requirements for the programme within a calendar year, and/or
- Be party to activities or events that bring either the scholarship programme, MIA Inc. or the industry into disrepute.

### *Administration*

This scholarship is administered by MIA.

### *Power to Vary*

MIA may vary the regulations of the scholarship. Variations will not depart from the main purposes of the scholarship.