

Garrick Latch Postgraduate Travel Grants

Grant Regulations

Focus

Plant pathology or molecular plant pathology

Level of Study

Doctoral

Purpose

To assist and encourage New Zealand postgraduate students in the field of plant pathology, molecular plant pathology or closely related disciplines to collaborate with overseas scientists by travelling overseas to an international conference or for a short period of work to broaden and enrich their minds and their research.

Background

Dr Garrick Latch completed a Master of Agricultural Science at Massey University in 1958. He was then awarded a Fulbright Scholarship that led to a PhD in plant pathology from the University of Wisconsin.

Returning to New Zealand in 1960 Dr Latch joined the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and established a sub-station of the Plant Disease Division in Palmerston North. He assisted plant breeders to develop disease resistance in grasses and legumes and also used pathogenic fungus for biological control of pasture insects.

It was this work that brought Dr Latch to the attention of the Food and Agriculture Organisation which enlisted his help to develop a strain of fungus to control the coconut Rhinoceros beetle in Tonga and Samoa.

The Garrick Latch Postgraduate Travel Grants were established in 2017.

Value and Tenure

The value of the grants will vary each year depending on how much funding is made available from the Massey University Foundation.

Grants are awarded annually to contribute to the cost of travel, accommodation, conferences fees and living expenses.

Typical Number on Offer

The number of grants awarded will vary each year depending on how much funding is made available from the Massey University Foundation.

Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- New Zealand citizens or permanent residents
- enrolled full-time for a doctoral degree in plant pathology, molecular plant pathology or a closely related field of study at Massey University
- attending an international conference at which they will present some of the results of their research or travelling overseas for a short period of work to assist with their doctoral programme.

Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on the academic ability of the applicant and the likely benefit to the applicant from undertaking the travel.

Preference will be given to doctoral students working on plant pathology projects, but applications from other related disciplines will also be considered, such as plant protection and applied plant science.

A budget for the travel must be included with the application for it to be considered.

Selection Panel

The grants will be awarded annually on the recommendation of the Applied Academic Programmes Scholarships Committee provided the applications are of sufficient academic merit. Should no suitable candidates be available the committee may refrain from making an award.

Conditions of the Grants

Applicants travelling to a conference may also undertake a visit to nearby research facilities as part of their travel if this will benefit their overseas experience.

Recipients must provide a one-page report to the School of Agriculture and Environment within four weeks of their return outlining the benefits they obtained from their travel.

Recipients who fail to undertake travel following provision of the grant will be required to repay the money awarded to them.

Recipients may hold other scholarships concurrently.