

PhD Scholarship Available - Open until Application Filled

PhD scholarship: Integrating mātauranga Māori and western science for management of mahinga kai aquatic species.

The Innovative River Solutions Group (IRS, Institute of Agriculture and Environment, Massey University) is offering a fully-funded PhD studentship in environmental management. This is part of a larger joint project with researchers at the University of Waikato, NIWA and Landcare funded through the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, to examine the current management approaches to mahinga kai.

This is a chance for high-calibre students to join a successful research team investigating the underpinnings of Māori / western science co-management solutions for freshwater resources. We are looking for a student who can undertake innovative research that will both improve our ability to integrate Māori and western science perspectives on resource management and identify key issues in enhancing local watershed management practices.

Knowledge of Māori tikanga would be useful but not essential. Furthermore the project will utilise artificial intelligence software to integrate knowledge streams, and thus familiarity with these techniques would also be useful but not essential. Full instruction in the use of the software to integrate mātauranga māori and western science will be provided by the research group.

The successful applicants will need to have the potential to understand alternative perspectives on resource management, as well as the initiative and personality to communicate the results to a wide variety of groups, including other scientists, iwi, stakeholders and the general public. They must be able to work within a multidisciplinary and multicultural team and can expect high quality mentoring and support from the group. Successful applicants will be highly motivated, have a strong academic record, appropriate practical and technical experience, and will have demonstrated a high level of ability in written and oral communication.

The scholarships are for study at Massey University and consist of a NZ \$25,000 per annum student stipend (i.e., tax free living allowance) and funding to cover course fees and research expenses for three years. For more information, contact Russell Death (r.g.death@massey.ac.nz). Applications will be accepted till the position is filled.

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