ZESPRI INTERNATIONAL LTD
Innovation Scholarships

The scholarships exist to encourage future skills, capability and continued research into the kiwifruit industry.

Eligibility
- Zespri scholarships are available to students enrolled, or looking to enrol, in a post-graduate (Masters or Doctoral) course of study
- Applicants must hold the appropriate prerequisite degree(s) and meet any other study requirements in the relevant country of study.

Value
Approved Scholarships will be awarded up to the indicated maximum value for each level of study per annum (or agreed equivalent in country of study):
- Masters NZD$20,000pa (stipend) plus university fees
- PhD NZD$30,000pa (stipend) plus university fees

Procedure
Applications open on 1 May and must be submitted no later than 31 July 2018 to the following address:
Attn: Innovation Coordinator, 400 Maunganui Road, PO Box 4043, Mount Maunganui 3149 or by email at scholarships@zespri.com.

Applications will be reviewed and applicants will be notified of the success of their application by 31 August 2018. An innovation leader be assigned for successful applicants and will sit on the review board and monitor progress.

Scholarship background
The Zespri Innovation Scholarship started in 2004 with the goal to encourage future skills and capability and continued research into the kiwifruit industry.

Objectives
- Build awareness of the kiwifruit industry as an exciting career option, highlighting pathways and networking opportunities
- Encourage further research into the industry
- Support the development and career opportunities of innovative young scientists across a broad range of research fields and disciplines within the kiwifruit industry.

Research Signals
- Each year key topics will be put forward by the Zespri Innovation Scholarship Group in areas where there is a need for specific research. However, all applications in relevant research areas are welcomed.
- This year’s topics are: Fruit quality and Supply Chain, Sustainability, New Technologies, Kiwifruit Pest and Disease
About Zespri – who we are and what we do

- Kiwifruit is New Zealand’s largest horticultural export and Zespri is the leading global kiwifruit marketer. With revenue of $2.3 billion in 2016/17
- In 2015, Zespri committed to more than double global sales revenue to $4.5 billion by 2025
- The Zespri brand celebrated its 20th birthday last year and is recognised as the world leader in premium-quality kiwifruit, sold in 59 countries around the world
- In addition to New Zealand-produced kiwifruit, Zespri sources premium quality fruit from several countries in the northern hemisphere including Italy, France and South Korea. Building Zespri’s Global Supply capability – through a focus on lifting fruit quality and yield - is seen as a key element to achieving the company’s 2025 goals
- Based in Mount Maunganui, New Zealand, Zespri is 100 percent owned by current or past kiwifruit growers, and employs 570 people in New Zealand, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas
- One of Zespri’s key strategic drivers is its continued significant investment in innovation of more than $25 million annually. Of particular note, is the partnership with Plant & Food Research to run the world’s largest kiwifruit breeding programme. Zespri also partners with leading global research expertise in various sectors. This covers: fruit physiology, fruit sensory evaluation and market insight, crop production systems (both current and future), post-harvest and supply chain technologies, health, nutrition and food safety, and pests and diseases - including biosecurity threats.

Zespri has a strong focus on future-proofing the industry. Sustainability is at the core of this focus.

- Sustainability is becoming an increasingly important component of the way the NZ kiwifruit industry and Zespri operate. Sustainability is front-of-mind in future-proofing Zespri’s supply chain, and in meeting customer and public expectations
- Zespri has a track record of investing in sustainability research (for example, water and carbon footprinting) and initiatives (for example, world-first compostable fruit labels) and is committed to doing more. The creation of a new Innovation & Sustainability executive position is evidence of that commitment.