Education Report: Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Awards

To: Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

Date: 09 July 2018  Priority: High

Security Level: In Confidence  METIS No: 1134949

Drafted: Emma Blyth  DDI: S 9(2)(a)

Key Contact: Frances Walsh  DDI: 

Messaging seen by Communications team: No  Round Robin: No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

Note the annual selection of the 2018/2019 Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Awards has been completed.

Agree the decision of the selection committee to grant the awards to 10 candidates for 2018/2019, and sign off the letters of introduction for each candidate.

Summary

This report provides background information on the Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Awards, and recommends that you agree to the decision to grant the award to 10 successful candidates for the 2018/2019 round.

It is proposed that you provide each successful candidate with a signed letter of introduction. Letters of introduction are attached for each successful candidate. The letters of introduction will be included with the formal letters confirming the award.
Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

a. **note** that the annual selection of Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Awards has been completed
   - Noted

b. **agree** the decision of the selection committee to award to the 10 successful candidates for 2018/2019 round
   - Agree / Disagree

c. **sign** the letters of introduction for each successful candidate, to be returned to the Ministry of Education
   - Signed

d. **note** that upon approval of the recommendations, the successful candidates will be sent a formal confirmation of the award, accompanied by the letter of introduction
   - Noted

e. **Proactively release** the Education Report and information regarding the Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Awards
   - Release / Not release

Ellen MacGregor-Reid
Deputy Secretary
Early Learning and Student Achievement
6/07/2018

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
Background

1. The Queen Elizabeth II Technicians' Study Awards were established following the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to New Zealand in 1970. The purpose of the awards is to assist technicians to pursue the full-time study of topics in a Commonwealth country, from which all people of New Zealand will benefit. For the purposes of this award, technicians are defined as trained people, qualified and recognised as technicians in their discipline, and who have worked in their field for at least three years.

2. The Queen Elizabeth II Technicians' Study Award Act 1970 provides for annual awards within the total amount of money voted by Parliament for the purposes of the award, under the delegation of the Minister of Education. The appropriation is $9(2)(f)(iv) per annum, from allocated funding sitting within Vote Education. The availability of the awards is widely advertised, and can be seen to support 'Science in Society' goals. Refer to Appendix One for further award information, including the eligible fields of technical work.

3. The selection committee, as specified in the 1991 amendment to the Queen Elizabeth II Technicians' Study Award Act, comprised a representative of the following organisations:
   - Vice Chancellors' Committee (Dr Shona de Sain)
   - New Zealand Qualifications Authority (Ms Frannie Aston)
   - Ministry of Primary Industries (Bryan Wilson)
   - New Zealand Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (Charles Finny)

4. All candidates met the award criteria and submitted worthwhile proposals.

Successful Candidates

5. Successful candidates will be required to submit a short report (to a maximum of two pages of typescript) to the Secretary of the Queen Elizabeth II Technicians' Study Awards on the completion of their award, outlining the training and the benefits they have received.

6. The decision of the selection committee is that the 10 applicants listed in the table (Appendix one) receive a grant from the award fund for the 2018/2019 round.
## Appendix one

### Recommended candidates for the 2018/2019 Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name</th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Seeking</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birchall</td>
<td>Penelope</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>Senior forensic technician</td>
<td>Study forensic archaeology of crime scenes</td>
<td>Cranford University Swindon</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borkin</td>
<td>Kerry</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Wildlands Consultants</td>
<td>Fauna Ecologist</td>
<td>Study of mitigation, management, monitoring and advocacy of bats</td>
<td>La Trobe University, Melbourne plus others</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Joshua</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Cawthron Institute</td>
<td>Laboratory technician</td>
<td>Training in marine toxins</td>
<td>University of Sydney &amp; Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenfield</td>
<td>Barry</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>NIWA</td>
<td>Marine ecology technician</td>
<td>Study the identification and classification of benthic marine macro invertebrates</td>
<td>Dove Marine Laboratory, North Shields</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecompte</td>
<td>Melanie</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>Senior technician</td>
<td>Study schemes for emergency water supply and environmental sanitation</td>
<td>Cranfield University Cranford</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manson</td>
<td>Kevin</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>NIWA</td>
<td>Technician</td>
<td>Complete BEngTech qualification</td>
<td>University of Southern Queensland Toowoomba</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralston</td>
<td>Jacqui</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>ESR</td>
<td>Senior science technician</td>
<td>Techniques for identifying influenza virus strains</td>
<td>Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity Melbourne</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
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<td>Sehrish</td>
<td>Tina</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Massey University</td>
<td>Research technician</td>
<td>Training in DNA technology for fungi and plant tissues</td>
<td>Australian National University Canberra</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yee</td>
<td>Nicole</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Dentures Plus (2014) Ltd</td>
<td>Dental Technician</td>
<td>Complete masterate in Maxillofacial Prosthetic Rehabilitation</td>
<td>King’s College London</td>
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<td>Zhao</td>
<td>Jenny</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Lincoln University</td>
<td>technician</td>
<td>Training for analytical method development, transfer and validation</td>
<td>TRAQE Asia</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL** $69,000
Proactive Release

It is intended that this Education Report is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.
Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Awards

Recipients Approved for 2018/2019

The Minister of Education, the Hon Chris Hipkins, has recently approved grants totalling $69,000 to 10 recipients in the latest round for the Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Awards. The recipients, who work in a wide range of industries, will receive grants to enable them to undertake study and training in Commonwealth countries during the next 12 months.

The QEII Technicians’ Study Awards were inaugurated in 1970. During her visit to New Zealand in that year, Her Majesty the Queen agreed to accept a gift from the people of New Zealand and decided that this gift should be study awards for technicians.

The awards require applicants to have a minimum of three years’ work experience in their field of expertise, and the QEII Technician’s Study Award grant is only made where there is evidence of significant employer assistance and support. The grants are available each year and information and application forms are available on the website:

[www.teachnz.govt.nz/ge2techawards](http://www.teachnz.govt.nz/ge2techawards)

The awards for the 2018/2019 round are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient Name</th>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Seeking</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Technician</td>
<td>Complete BEngTech qualification</td>
<td>University of Southern Queensland Toowoomba</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<td>Position</td>
<td>Training/Program</td>
<td>Institution/Country</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Cost</td>
</tr>
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<td>-----------------------</td>
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For further information contact: Andrew Hutson, Administrator QEI1 Technicians’ Study Awards Ph: 04 528 0808 Email: aj@hutson.net.nz

TOTAL $69,000
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter introduces Penelope Birchall who has been granted a Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Award for the year 2018/2019.

The object of these awards is to enable a small group of carefully selected people to gain advanced technical education, training and experience in Commonwealth countries.

Penelope will be studying forensic archaeology of crime scenes at Cranford University, Swindon in the United Kingdom.

Any courtesies that may be extended to Penelope Birchall while undertaking these studies would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter introduces Kerry Borkin who has been granted a Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Award for the year 2018/2019.

The object of these awards is to enable a small group of carefully selected people to gain advanced technical education, training and experience in Commonwealth countries.

Kerry will be studying the mitigation, management, monitoring and advocacy of bats at the La Trobe University, Melbourne and other locations in Australia.

Any courtesies that may be extended to Kerry Borkin while undertaking these studies would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter introduces Joshua Fitzgerald who has been granted a Queen Elizabeth II Technicians' Study Award for the year 2018/2019.

The object of these awards is to enable a small group of carefully selected people to gain advanced technical education, training and experience in Commonwealth countries.

Joshua will be undertaking training in marine toxins at the University of Sydney, and the Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences in Australia.

Any courtesies that may be extended to Joshua Fitzgerald while undertaking these studies would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter introduces Barry Greenfield who has been granted a Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Award for the year 2018/2019.

The object of these awards is to enable a small group of carefully selected people to gain advanced technical education, training and experience in Commonwealth countries.

Barry will be studying the identification and classification of benthic marine macro invertebrates at the Dove Marine Laboratory, North Shields in the United Kingdom.

Any courtesies that may be extended to Barry Greenfield while undertaking these studies would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
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This letter introduces Melanie Lecompte who has been granted a Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Award for the year 2018/2019.

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Melanie will be studying schemes for emergency water supply and environmental sanitation at Cranfield University, Cranford in the United Kingdom.

Any courtesies that may be extended to Melanie Lecompte while undertaking these studies would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
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This letter introduces Kevin Manson who has been granted a Queen Elizabeth II Technicians' Study Award for the year 2018/2019.

The object of these awards is to enable a small group of carefully selected people to gain advanced technical education, training and experience in Commonwealth countries.

Kevin will be able to complete his BEngTech qualification at the University of Southern Queensland Toowoomba in Australia.

Any courtesies that may be extended to Kevin Manson while undertaking these studies would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
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Jacqui will be able to study techniques for identifying influenza virus strains at the Peter Doherty Institution for Infection and Immunity in Melbourne, Australia.

Any courtesies that may be extended to Jacqui Ralston while undertaking these studies would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter introduces Tina Sehrish who has been granted a Queen Elizabeth II Technicians' Study Award for the year 2018/2019.

The object of these awards is to enable a small group of carefully selected people to gain advanced technical education, training and experience in Commonwealth countries.

Tina will be able to undertake training in DNA technology for fungi and plant tissues at the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

Any courtesies that may be extended to Tina Sehrish while undertaking these studies would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter introduces Nicole Yee who has been granted a Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Award for the year 2018/2019.

The object of these awards is to enable a small group of carefully selected people to gain advanced technical education, training and experience in Commonwealth countries.

Nicole will be able to complete her masterate in Maxillofacial Prosthetic Rehabilitation at King’s College, London in the United Kingdom.

Any courtesies that may be extended to Nicole Yee while undertaking these studies would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter introduces Jenny Zhao who has been granted a Queen Elizabeth II Technicians’ Study Award for the year 2018/2019.

The object of these awards is to enable a small group of carefully selected people to gain advanced technical education, training and experience in Commonwealth countries.

Jenny will be able to train for analytical method development, transfer and validation at the TRAQE Asia in Singapore.

Any courtesies that may be extended to Jenny Zhao while undertaking these studies would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education