

Horizons Regional Council – Sustainable Land Use Scholarships Scholarship Guidelines

Sustainable Land Use – Advanced (SLU Advanced) Scholarships for year three, honours, and postgraduate/Masters students

Where there are sufficient suitable applications, Horizons Regional Council will provide up to four Horizons Regional Council Sustainable Land Use Scholarships up to a maximum value of \$10,000 each, for the duration of one year, to third year and postgraduate/honours/masters students.

For scholarship recipients successfully completing year three and intending to progress to further study in the following academic year paid holiday employment at Horizons Regional Council may be offered. Such employment would be based in Palmerston North and would run from November to February of the year the scholarship is awarded. Scholarship recipients successfully completing their third and/or final year of study may be offered permanent employment at Horizons Regional Council.

All scholarship applicants must read these guidelines in their entirety before applying for the scholarship. By signing and submitting these guidelines along with their scholarship application, applicants are confirming that they have read and understood these guidelines.

1. Purpose of Scholarship:

Horizons Regional Council provides the scholarships to encourage students to specialise their 300-level and postgraduate study in the field of soil science, land use mapping, and land management. Scholarships are also aimed at encouraging extended specialised study at honours level or higher.

2. Tertiary Provider:

Scholarships are available to students studying full-time at Massey University Palmerston North.

3. Criteria (Required Papers):

Students applying for scholarship must meet all of the following criteria:

- Enrolled full-time at Massey University Palmerston North, **and**
- Must have successfully completed:
189.151 Soil Properties and Processes, **and**
- Must be enrolled in, or have successfully completed:
189.251 Soil Fertility and Fertilisers, **and**
189.252 Land Soil and Water, **and**
119.258 Agricultural Systems, **and**
- Must be enrolled in:
189.362 Soil Fertility and the Environment, **and**
189.363 Soil Resources and Sustainable Land Use, **and**
111.351 Farm and Horticultural Management, **or**
- Have successfully completed the above papers and be planning a related honours project or course of postgraduate study (including Masters Degree).

'Successful completion' denotes a passing grade for 100 level papers (excluding restricted passes), and a minimum grade average of B for required 200 and 300 level course papers (as specified above).

4. Application:

Scholarship applicants are required to submit an application containing:

- Scholarship application form.
- Verified academic transcripts of tertiary study completed to date.
- A CV outlining relevant work experience, qualifications, and interests.
- A minimum of two referees who can be contacted by Horizons Regional Council to provide information on the students' likelihood of academic and work based success in this area.
- A copy of a relevant project undertaken during the student's course of study to date.
- Signed scholarship guidelines.

Completed applications should be marked 'confidential' and sent to:

Group Secretary
Environmental Management
Horizons Regional Council
Private Bag 11025
Manawatu Mail Centre
Palmerston North 4442

5. Selection of Scholarship Recipients:

Scholarship recipients will be selected by a panel of Horizons Regional Council representatives, including but not limited to staff from Environmental Management and Research Teams. Horizons Regional Council may also invite other parties to participate in the selection panel including representatives from Massey University, and/or Crown Research Institutes

Scholarship applicants whose applications are short-listed will, at minimum, be interviewed by the selection panel, and required to give a presentation to on an environmental topic specified by the panel.

6. Timing:

Applications for the 2009 scholarships will open on 1 February 2009 and will close on 11 April.

7. Payment of Scholarship:

Scholarship payment will be made to successful applicants in two equal instalments by direct debit to students nominated bank accounts. Payments will be made to scholarship recipients by 31 May and September respectively in the year they receive the scholarship. Payments September will be made on the proviso that the student has provided Horizons with evidence of successful completion of their first semester 'required papers' (as defined above). Scholarship recipients undertaking two-year Masters Degree programmes of study may, by negotiation be able to split the scholarship payments over a two-year period.

8. Value and Tenure of Scholarship:

The value of each scholarship is a maximum of \$10,000.00. Each scholarship is available for one year only, apart from for Masters students who negotiate a longer scholarship tenure.

9. Scholarship Regulations:

- a. The scholarship shall be known as the Horizons Regional Council Sustainable Land Use Advanced (SLU Advanced) Scholarship.
- b. Scholarship is available to year three, honours, and postgraduate students meeting the criteria listed above.
- c. The scholarship will be administered by Horizons Regional Council in conjunction with Massey University Palmerston North.
- d. There will be up to four recipients of the scholarship each year. Where there are not enough suitable applicants, Horizons Regional Council reserves the right to award less than four scholarships, or to not award any scholarship.
- e. Horizons Regional Council reserves the right to change the value of each scholarship awarded, prior to awarding the scholarship. The value of a scholarship will not be changed once the scholarship is awarded.
- f. Prior receipt of a year one or two Horizons Regional Council Sustainable Land Use Scholarship, does not guarantee receipt of the year three or postgraduate scholarship.
- g. Scholarship applicants are expected to have a solid interest in environmental management, soil, and land use planning, and must have the express intention of developing a career in this area.
- h. Scholarship recipients are expected to achieve a high academic standard, with a minimum grade average of B in the required papers.
- i. Scholarship recipients who have successfully completed their third and/or final year of study may be offered permanent employment with Horizons Regional Council on the basis that Horizons Regional Council would have first right of refusal.
- j. Subject to positions and locations available, such employment would be in a position related to the recipients' course of study, and would be on terms and conditions as negotiated between the scholarship recipient and Horizons Regional Council, and consistent with other graduate positions within Horizons Regional Council. It is envisioned that such employment would be to an Environmental Management Position, and on a professional development (graduate) pay scale.
- k. If employment offered by Horizons Regional Council on reasonable terms and conditions was not accepted by the scholarship recipient, the scholarship recipient may be required to repay all or part of the scholarships value. This clause is subject to appeal to Horizons Regional Council.
- l. Where employment is offered and accepted, scholarship recipients will be bonded as employees of Horizons Regional Council for a period of one year. Scholarship recipients whose employment is terminated by either party within this year (other than for reasons of redundancy) would be liable for part repayment of the scholarships value, based on part of year remaining.
- m. Receipt of scholarship does not guarantee employment with Horizons Regional Council.
- n. Where suitable employment can not be offered, no repayment of the scholarship will be required.

- o. Any employment at Horizons Regional Council (temporary or permanent) is conditional on scholarship recipients meeting other Horizons Regional Council employment criteria including meeting the requirements within the pre-employment health declaration, and declaration of criminal convictions, charges pending, and serious traffic offences.
- p. Scholarship recipients completing an honours course under scholarship would be required to complete one Land Use Plan under Horizons Regional Council's Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI), as well as a research project related to environmental issues.
- q. Students undertaking an honours or Masters course would be expected to meet credit requirements pertaining to soil, land use mapping, GIS, and farm management.
- r. Upon completion of the honours or Masters requirement, scholarship recipients may be offered employment on the terms outlined in i. to o. inclusive above.
- s. Scholarship recipients will agree to media and publicity responsibilities as required.
- t. Scholarships will only be awarded to NZ citizens or NZ permanent residents studying full time at Massey University Palmerston North.
- u. Only candidates undertaking full-time study in the year the scholarship is awarded are eligible for scholarship.
- v. Each scholarship is available for one year's study only. Candidates may reapply for scholarship in subsequent years, however successful award is not guaranteed.
- w. Scholarship recipients who, without good reason, withdraw from full-time study, or, fail to successfully complete required papers, and / or fail to maintain a B grade average in required papers, may be required to reimburse all or part of the scholarships value to Horizons Regional Council. This clause is subject to appeal to Horizons Regional Council.
- x. Applicants are required to sign and submit these guidelines with their scholarship application. Scholarship applications that do not contain all the requirements listed in clause four of these guidelines will not be accepted.
- y. Horizons Regional Council reserves the right to make changes to these guidelines.
- z. These guidelines are written and effective as of September 2006.

10. Privacy of Personal Applicant Information:

Personal information on scholarship applicants is collected under the Privacy Act 1993, and remains property of Horizons Regional Council. Such information will be used to assess the candidates' suitability for scholarship, and for purposes listed in the above scholarship guidelines.

Information on successful and unsuccessful scholarship applicants will be held and stored in a confidential, secure manner, in line with the requirements of the Privacy Act 1993.

Personal information of scholarship recipients may be disclosed to external parties for the purposes of media statements, Horizons Regional Council publicity, and scholarship promotion.

Under the Privacy Act 1993, candidates are entitled to request to access, copy, and/or request changes to personal information.

Applicant Declaration

Applicants for the Horizons Regional Council Sustainable Land Use Scholarship (years three, honours, and postgraduate) are required to sign these guidelines below and submit with their scholarship application. Applicants are advised to retain a copy of the guidelines for their own records.

I _____(full name), confirm that I have read the above guidelines for the Horizons Regional Council Sustainable Land Use Scholarship in their entirety, and that I fully understand and accept them and their implications.

Signed:_____ Date:_____