Background

The New Zealand Agricultural Fieldays Sir Don Llewellyn Scholarship was established by the New Zealand National Fieldays Society Inc.™. The Scholarship was founded to assist students to undertake research at the University of Waikato with a specific focus on the agricultural sector.

The University of Waikato has a long-standing association with the New Zealand Agricultural Fieldays; it was the University’s founding Vice-Chancellor Sir Don Llewellyn who helped establish this iconic event in the 1960s. As the key tertiary institution in the Waikato region – New Zealand’s agricultural heartland – the University has been a strategic partner with Fieldays since 2007 with research strengths in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, agribusiness, and other areas adding value to land-based industries.

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of the New Zealand Agricultural Fieldays Sir Don Llewellyn Scholarship is to assist students to undertake research, with a focus on the agricultural sector.

2. Eligibility

2.1. Candidates for the Scholarship must be citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand.

2.2. Candidates will normally be enrolled at the University of Waikato and be undertaking research, at master’s or doctoral level, in the year of application for this Scholarship.

2.2.1. Candidates who have not yet enrolled in their research must provide a timeline showing the anticipated start and end dates of their research.

2.2.2. Candidates nearing the end of their research must provide a timeline showing the anticipated date of the submission of their thesis for examination.

2.3. Past recipients may reapply in subsequent years.

3. Value

3.1. The value of the one-year Scholarship will be up to $22,000. If more than one candidate of particular merit presents, the Panel may choose to divide the Scholarship.

3.2. The Scholarship will normally be paid in monthly instalments.

3.3. It is expected that the Scholarship will be used for course-related expenses.

4. Application

4.1. Applications for the Scholarship must be received by the University of Waikato Scholarships Office by 31 March 2017.

4.2. As part of the online application process, each applicant must upload a (maximum two-page) personal statement that includes (but is not limited to) the following subheadings:

- Relevance of the research to the agricultural sector
- Research timeline
- Future study and employment plans, with a particular focus on likely contribution to the agricultural sector.
4.3. Applicants must ask the following persons to provide a reference letter:
   • The (prospective or current) Supervisor of the applicant’s research
   • A Senior Researcher at a tertiary institution, CRI, or similar.

5. Selection

5.1. Short-listed candidates will normally be invited to attend an interview as part of the selection process.

5.2. The Scholarship selection will be made by a Selection Panel comprising:
   • Two representatives of the New Zealand National Fieldays Society Inc.™
   • The Chair of the University’s Scholarships Committee, or nominee, who shall chair the Panel
   • The University’s Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Communications, Marketing and Engagement, or nominee
   • A senior academic involved in the agricultural field.

5.3. The Selection Panel will pay particular attention to the relevance and potential benefits of the research for the agricultural sector. Academic merit will be another key consideration. The Panel may also take into account the applicant’s future study and employment plans.

5.4. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.

5.5. All applicants will be advised in writing of the outcome of their application.

5.6. The Panel’s decision will be final; no other correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

6. Awarding

6.1. Successful applicants must advise the University’s Scholarships Office of their acceptance by the prescribed date.

   6.1.1. If a successful candidate declines a Scholarship, or does not take it up, the Selection Panel reserves the right to offer the Scholarship to another applicant.

6.2. The Scholarships Office will monitor each recipient’s progress and facilitate reporting to the funder. For example, recipients may be required to present at the Society’s annual dinner and provide written reports on their research.

7. Conditions

7.1. The Scholarship may be held together with any other scholarship, bursary, or prize, or student allowance, unless the conditions of the other award preclude this.

7.2. The Scholarships Committee may terminate a Scholarship at any time and recoup any funds disbursed if it is not satisfied that the holder is following the required programme in an appropriate manner or otherwise complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship.

   7.2.1. The holder of a Scholarship shall have the right to appeal to the Research Committee against any decision to terminate the award.

7.3. By accepting a Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in events and publicity concerning the Scholarship as requested by the New Zealand National Fieldays Society Inc.™ and/or the University of Waikato.