PROJECT TITLE: Let me tell you about seaweed!

FIELD: Science, arts, and communication

PROJECT LOCATION: University of Waikato Coastal Marine Field Station, Tauranga

PROJECT AIM: Science communication for seaweed with a creative touch

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
The Macroalgal Biotechnologies research team at the University of Waikato Coastal Marine Field Station conduct applied research and development in marine and freshwater macroalgal biotechnologies with three major foci relating to the development of:

- Aquaculture techniques for New Zealand species of seaweed and freshwater macroalgae;
- Improvement of water quality in aquatic systems using macroalgal bioremediation technologies;
- Innovative macroalgal bioproducts.

We collaborate broadly with industry, academia, independent science organisations, and Crown Research Institutions, and aim to deliver sustainable enterprises that can move quickly from pilot demonstration to commercial scale.

With such a diversity in research partners and projects comes a highly diverse audience, and the Summer Research opportunity here lies in creating scientific and artistic visual material for information and outreach, communicating our science to stakeholders at multiple levels. We are looking for a creative student to challenge themselves in delivering scientifically accurate and visually attractive informational and promotional material using a variety of techniques and technologies, with flexibility to accommodate the skills and interests of the successful applicant.

This project is collaborative and it is expected that the successful candidate will contribute visual (preferably photography or illustrations) material to accompany a series of seaweed recipes that will be developed in an aligned project supervised within our research team.

The student will also have the opportunity to participate in Priority One’s “Summer Open Lab” (SOL) programme, which provides weekly workshops on the theme of innovation for students undertaking summer projects across the Western Bay of Plenty. This is designed to fit realistically within their workload, and will offer opportunity to network with local companies and other students, and build skills and capability relevant to their career development.

STUDENT SKILLS:
- Science communication for diverse audiences
- Graphic design / traditional visual arts / scientific drawing
- Creative
- Self-motivated and pro-active

PROJECT TASKS:
- Scientific drawings of growth habits and life cycles of target seaweeds
- Informational material (printed posters, power points slides, web content) regarding seaweed aquaculture and research, and seaweed products, specifically to inform industry, general public, and academics of algae-related research conducted within the Macroalgal Biotechnologies research team here
- Photography / illustrations for seaweed dishes created in the aligned summer research project “The fifth taste - unlocking New Zealand seaweed flavour” to accompany a series of seaweed recipes that are the expected outcome of that project
- Scope for creative visual arts component (video, animation, artistic drawings/paintings of target seaweed) pending the interests and skills of the successful applicant.
EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Student’s Research Poster (as per clause 6 of the Scholarship regulations)
- Scientific drawings of growth habits and life cycles of target seaweeds
- At least 2 examples of informational material regarding seaweed aquaculture and research, and seaweed products, specifically to inform stakeholders of the algae-related research conducted at UoW
- Photography / illustrations for seaweed dishes created in project “The fifth taste - unlocking New Zealand seaweed flavour”
- Scope for creative visual arts component (e.g. video, animation, artistic drawings/paintings of target seaweed) driven by the successful applicant.