

The Sparling Environmental Travel Award was established in 2019 by Dr Graham Sparling and his wife Ruth Sparling. The Award in recognition of Dr Sparling's time at University of Waikato where he enjoyed much interaction with staff and students and held them in high regard.

Dr Sparling was a well-known New Zealand soil scientist and was recognised internationally for his work in soil biology and biochemistry as well as indicators of soil quality and health. After many years with the former NZ Soil Bureau (DSIR), some years at the University of Western Australia, and later with Landcare Research, Dr Sparling decided to follow his personal interests. Dr Sparling was offered a Research Associate position at the then Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Waikato. There followed a productive and enjoyable 10 years until he retired fully in 2017.

Graham and Ruth set up this Award to allow students to achieve their ambitions in environmental sciences, with particular emphasis on the science and ecology of soil, and enabling students to achieve their ambitions for their careers as well as the benefit of New Zealand. Up to two Awards will be offered each year.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the Award is to encourage and reward meritorious students by enabling them to attend conferences of relevance to their research/study in environmental sciences.

## 2. Eligibility

- 2.1. To be eligible, candidates must:
  - a) be enrolled full-time in any level of post-graduate study and undertaking research in the general area of environmental studies, natural sciences, or agricultural sciences, not including marine or volcanic studies;
  - b) be presenting a research paper in 2019 at a recognised conference outlining their own postgraduate research;
    - i. Retrospective funding will not be available for conference presentations that occurred before the closing date of this award; and
  - c) be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand.

## 3. Value and Tenure

- 3.1. The value of the Award will be **up to \$5,000** and will be paid in two equal instalments, the first as soon as practicable after acceptance of the award and the second after submission of a report (see clause 7.2).
- 3.2. The award may be held on more than one occasion.

#### 4. Application

- 4.1. The closing date for applications is **30 April 2019** (in subsequent years the closing date will be **15 February annually**).
- 4.2. Applicants should submit the following along with their online application:
  - A Personal Statement (using the prescribed template), which includes the following subheadings:
    - A short (maximum 250 words) statement detailing the postgraduate research topic and its fit to environmental studies;
    - A short statement detailing the name, date and location of the conference and the predicted benefit to the student of attending the conference;
    - A budget of estimated costs associated with attending the conference, including details of any other funding gained and likelihood of attending if funding is not received.
    - An outline (draft is permissible) of the paper/presentation to be offered at the conference;
- 4.3. As part of the application process, candidate's must also request the following document to be submitted confidentially to the School of Graduate Research to support their application:
  - i. an academic reference, attesting to the academic and research strengths of the applicant, and their involvement in departmental activities.

#### 5. Selection Panel and Criteria

- 5.1. The Selection Panel will comprise the Dean of School of Graduate Research (in the Chair) or nominee, the Development Manager, and an academic nominated by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee who researches in the area of environmental studies, natural sciences and/or agricultural sciences.
- 5.2. When assessing applications, the Selection Panel will take into consideration the following:
  - Fit of research and student to the purpose of this Award.
  - Financial hardship;
  - Contribution to departmental functions (e.g., tutoring, field assistance, etc.) and willingness to contribute "above and beyond";
  - Good communication skills in both formal and informal settings (e.g., publications, hui, conference presentations etc.);
  - Ability to meet deadlines;
  - Other funding received by the applicant.
- 5.3. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.
- 5.4. The Selection Panel's decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into following the Selection Panel's meeting

## 6. Awarding

- 6.1. All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application, and must accept the offer by the prescribed date or the offer will lapse.
- 6.2. The report (linked to final payment) should be submitted to [scholarships@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:scholarships@waikato.ac.nz) before the 31 December in the year of awarding, and must detail the following:
  - Evidence of presentation at the conference (i.e., presentation time slot; copy of slides);
  - Benefit to the recipient of attending the conference (e.g., new academic colleagues, feedback on presentation, awards gained);
  - Any other pertinent information.

## 7. Other Conditions

- 7.1. The Scholarships Committee may terminate this Award at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from the University of Waikato, brings the Award, the University or Funder into disrepute<sup>1</sup>, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Award and/or the regulations of the University of Waikato. The holder of an Award shall have the right to appeal to the Scholarships Executive against any decision to terminate the Award.
- 7.2. By accepting the offer of an Award, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Award arranged by the University of Waikato.
- 7.3. The University may from time to time vary these regulations in consultation with the Funder.

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<sup>1</sup> See [Code of Student Conduct](#)