PhD scholarship – Sustainable Materials Research
Āmiomio Aotearoa: A Circular Economy for the Wellbeing of New Zealand

Background: The current linear extract-produce-use-dispose material flow model of the modern economic system is unsustainable and needs to be addressed. We have multiple fully-funded PhD scholarships as part of the MBIE Endeavour project “Āmiomio Aotearoa: A Circular Economy for the Wellbeing of New Zealand” (funded $10.9M, 2020 – 2025). The project is a collaboration between universities, research institutes, industry, community groups and government ministries hosted by the School of Engineering at Waikato University. It aims to pave the way through materials science, engineering, energy, economics, kaupapa Māori, business, law and regulation, social science and public policy for a more sustainable New Zealand.

As a PhD student at the University of Waikato, you would be a part of this transformational programme, focused on materials but interacting with others researching across the spectrum of the circular economy. The focus would be on sustainable materials for building/construction from sustainable and waste/recycled materials (natural fibre composites/biopolymers/recycling/natural materials). There is also the potential to include life cycle analysis and commercialisation.

Your ideal background:
• a relevant MSc, BE or BSc Hons qualification or soon to complete - e.g. materials and process/chemical/mechanical/civil engineering or chemistry
• passion for the application of sustainable materials
• a professional attitude, good writing and time management skills
• a willingness to learn, up-skill and work in multidisciplinary group

Value: up to $50,000 per year (3 years), including a stipend (typically $40,000 per year for domestic candidates), domestic tuition fees, support for research materials and travel.

Application documents required
• CV including contact details for 2-3 referees (including at least one academic reference)
• Academic transcript from previous study undertaken
• A personal statement (max 1 page) describing your motivation, interests and background related to the research project

Contact
For further information/confidential discussion or to apply contact Professor Kim Pickering at klp@waikato.ac.nz by April 30th, 2022