

2024

GRANTEE BOOKLET



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Cover Photo: US Graduates Mel Schwimmer and Monica Dix take in a Football Ferns game in Christchurch.

MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to all 2024 Fulbright award recipients. Since its inception over seventy-five years ago, the Fulbright programme has helped foster people-to-people relationships between New Zealand and the United States through academic excellence, enrichment, and exchange. Every year a new group of talented individuals take up that mission and we applaud them for their efforts. This unique opportunity will allow you to deepen your knowledge and understanding in your chosen field, while building enduring connections in your host nation. We wish you all the best in this and your future endeavors.

Rt Hon. Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand Honorary Chairperson, Fulbright New Zealand



Kia ora and congratulations to the 2024 Fulbright grantees! The work of Fulbright New Zealand over the last 75 years has made tremendous contributions to achieving Senator Fulbright's goal of fostering leadership, learning, and empathy between cultures. I warmly welcome this new cohort of New Zealand and U.S. grantees and applaud your distinguished endeavors as you continue that important mission. Your Fulbright Award will continue to open doors for you in the future, and you, in turn, will have the opportunity to open doors for others. I wish you continued success and look forward to learning more about your adventures and achievements. Kia kaha!

Tom Udall

US Ambassador to New Zealand Honorary Chairperson, Fulbright New Zealand



On behalf of the Fulbright New Zealand Board of Directors and Staff, I extend my warm congratulations to all the 2024 grantees. A Fulbright Award testifies not only to your high academic, professional, and creative abilities, but also confers on you an important role as representatives of your country and your culture. It offers you, as recipients, the opportunity to advance knowledge and practice in your chosen fields and sectors, and in doing so to strengthen the links between academic and creative communities in Aotearoa and the United States. I am delighted to welcome this new cohort of Fulbright Grantees, and I wish them only the very best for their Fulbright experience and for the future.

Alastair Bisley

Chairperson of the Board, Fulbright New Zealand

FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND

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THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAMME



The Fulbright programme of international educational exchange was an initiative of US Senator J. William Fulbright from Arkansas, who in the aftermath of World War II believed that mutual understanding between different countries and cultures was crucial to ensure a peaceful future for the world.

The Fulbright Act, an ingenious piece of legislation passed by the United States Congress in 1946, directed proceeds from the sale of surplus war property, foreign loan repayments and reparations to fund the "promotion of international good will through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture, and science."

In Senator Fulbright's own words, the Fulbright programme aims "to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship."

New Zealand was the fifth country to sign up to the Fulbright programme by bilateral treaty with the United States of America, in 1948. Since then Fulbright New Zealand has granted more than 3,000 exchange awards, sending over 1,900 New Zealand graduate students, artists, academics, teachers and professionals on exchanges to the US and welcoming over 1,600 Americans on exchanges to New Zealand.

Fulbright New Zealand is jointly funded by the US and New Zealand governments with additional funding from award partners and donors. It is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of New Zealanders and Americans.

The Fulbright programme has been described as one of the largest and most significant movements of scholars across the face of the earth and now operates in 165 countries, funding around 8,000 exchanges per year for participants to study, research, teach or present their work in another country.

The more than 400,000 Fulbright alumni worldwide include heads of state, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, politicians, judges, heads of corporations, university presidents, journalists, artists, professors and teachers. Esteemed alumni of the Fulbright programme include Dame Marie Clay, Sir Kenneth Keith, Sir Wallace Rowling, Dame Anne Salmond, David Cunliffe, Gareth Farr, Witi Ihimaera, Michael King, Alan MacDiarmid, Bill Manhire, Ron Paterson, Jan Wright and many other prominent New Zealanders.

Fulbright grantees make the most of their exchanges to get to know and understand a different country and culture, to advance themselves academically or professionally and to make lifelong friendships and professional relationships. Many look back on their Fulbright exchange as a life-changing experience and a defining moment of their career.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Congratulations to the 2024 Fulbright New Zealand cohort! It is wonderful to be able to celebrate your success with you as we warmly welcome you to the Fulbright whānau.

At its heart, the Fulbright programme exists to promote mutual understanding and peace between nations, and every year a fresh group of outstanding individuals takes up that challenge.

The scope of research interests across all the awards categories this year is a testament to Fulbright's wide impact across disciplines. And this, of course, is the great strength of the Fulbright programme—the breadth and depth of people and subjects travelling between countries, building and sharing their expertise and experience.

We are thrilled to recognise and celebrate a full cohort of 23 New Zealand Fulbright grantees who will be heading to the US to take up their awards very soon.

Last year welcomed an extended cohort of US graduates and scholars, most of whom had been unable to take up their awards in previous years, due to the COVID 19 pandemic. This year we will have a total of 14 US grantees in the country.

While they may number a little fewer, the calibre and quality of these individuals, who have chosen to travel all the way here to New Zealand, is no less impressive.

The 2024 cohort of NZ and US Scholars and Graduate Award winners represents a wonderfully diverse range of research topics and backgrounds. Each one of them will make an exceptional ambassador of New Zealand or US scholarship and culture during their Fulbright experience.

Ngā mihi nui,

Penelope Borland *Executive Director, Fulbright New Zealand*

FULBRIGHT GRADUATE PROGRAMME

Fulbright New Zealand offers a range of awards to New Zealand and American graduate students to study or research in each other's countries. Grantees are selected on the basis of academic excellence and ambassadorial qualities. In addition to award payments towards study or research, all grantees receive return airfares, a health benefit plan, enrichment activities and programme support during their exchange.

FULBRIGHT SCIENCE AND INNOVATION GRADUATE AWARDS

These awards are for promising New Zealand graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research at US institutions in fields targeted to support growth and innovation in New Zealand.

Seven awards were granted this year. These awards are sponsored by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.



SAINIMERE BOLADUADUA (SOMOSOMO, CAKAUDROVE; LEVUKA-I-YALE KADAVU)

Sainimere from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland will research healthcare experiences of families of Native American children with respiratory infections at Johns Hopkins University's Center for Indigenous Health in Baltimore, Maryland. She is studying for a PhD at Waipapa Taumata Rau, The University of Auckland.

Sai graduated with an MBChB from the University of Otago in 2002, a Diploma in Obstetrics & Gynaecology from the Fiji School of Medicine in 2006 and an MPH (Distinction) from the University of Otago in 2011. She is a Fellow of the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine.



JACKSON CATE (TE ATIAWA)

Jackson Cate from Kirikiriroa Hamilton will research the extent to which attaching memories to objects—creating mementos or monuments—inflates the objects' monetary value at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California. He is studying toward at PhD at The University of Waikato.

Jackson graduated from The University of Waikato with a BSc (Hons) in Psychology in 2023.



RYAN MEACHEN (NGĀTI TE WEHI, NGĀTI HUIA KI POROUTAWHAO)

Ryan Meachen, from Heretaunga Hastings, will research organisational behaviour, leadership theory and wellbeing science at the Leadership and Happiness Laboratory at the Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Ryan graduated with an MBA from Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington in 2020, where he is currently a PhD student exploring how individuals fulfill their potential by striving towards becoming their ideal self.



SIDNEY WONG (LLIYIP 四邑, SAMSUI 三水, TUNGKWOON 東莞)

Sidney Wong 黃吉贊 from Te Awakairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt will research automatic hate speech detection on social media at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois toward a PhD in Linguistics at the University of Canterbury.

Sidney graduated with a BSc in Linguistics from the University of Canterbury in 2016, an MLing (Distinction) in 2018, and an MADS (Distinction) in 2022.



FELICITY POWELL

Felicity Powell from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland will complete an Ed.M. in Education Leadership, Organizations, and Entrepreneurship at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Felicity graduated with a BA from the University of Canterbury in 2016, a Postgraduate Certificate in Law from the University of Auckland in 2019, and a Master of Teaching and Education Leadership from The Mind Lab as part of the Ako Mātātupu: Teach First NZ programme in 2021.



ALEXANDER YOUNG

Alexander Young from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland will complete a Master of Laws specialising in Environmental Law at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Alexander graduated with an LLB(Hons) and a BSc in Geography from the University of Auckland in 2020.



MICHELLE MEACLEM

Michelle Meaclem from Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington will complete a Master in Public Policy at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Michelle graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT - SOPHIE OLIFF

2022 Fulbright NZ Science and Innovation Graduate Award

The experience has been a blend of challenges and triumphs, each shaping me into a more capable and globally aware individual.

Sophie Oliff's Fulbright NZ Science and Innovation Graduate Award took her to Harvard Medical School in Massachusetts, where she completed a Masters of Science in Clinical Service Operations.

What would you do with a Fulbright?



FULBRIGHT NGĀ PAE O TE MĀRAMATANGA GRADUATE AWARD

This award is for a promising New Zealand graduate student to undertake postgraduate study or research in the US in the field of Indigenous Development.

FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND GENERAL GRADUATE AWARDS

These awards are for promising New Zealand graduate students to undertake

One award was granted this year.



FINLEY NGARANGI JOHNSON (RONGOMAIWAHINE, NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU)

Fin will travel from Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington to Hawai'i, Duluth, and Baltimore as a Visiting Student Researcher. He will work alongside Indigenous scholars and communities affiliated with the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Office of Public Health Studies, and the Johns Hopkins University Centre for Indigenous Health.

Fin graduated with a BA in Māori Resource Management and Psychology (2020), and an BSci (Hons) in Psychology (2021) at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington.



WILIAME GUCAKE (VUSARATU, UTUALI'I)

Wiliame Gucake from Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington will complete a Master of Laws focused on transitional justice and indigenous rights at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Wiliame is the Registrar of the Waitangi Tribunal in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington.



AMELIA KENDALL (TE RARAWA)

Amelia Kendall from Mitimiti, Northland, will complete a Master of Laws at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Amelia graduated with a LLB (Hons) and BA conjoint from Waipapa Taumata Rau, The University of Auckland.



MATTHEW KEREAMA (NGĀTI MANOMANO)

Matthew Kereama from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland will complete a Masters of Fine Arts specialising in Stage Directing at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Matthew graduated with a BMus (Hons) in Classical Performance Voice at the University of Auckland in 2020.



LUKE ELBOROUGH

Seven awards were granted this year.

postgraduate study or research at US institutions in any field.

Luke Elborough from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland will complete a Master of Laws specialising in trial and appellate advocacy, with a focus on criminal law, international law and human rights, at New York University in New York City, New York.

Luke graduated with an LLB (Hons) and a BA in Classical Studies from the University of Auckland in 2017.



MEG PORTEOUS (NGĀTI MANIAPOTO/PAKEHA)

Meg Porteous from Taranaki will undertake an MFA in Film Directing at the University of California, Los Angeles, in Los Angeles, California.

Meg graduate with a BFA in Photography from Canterbury University in 2013 and an MFA from the University of Auckland in 2020.



PITA ROYCROFT (NGĀTI TUWHARETOA, NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU)

Pita Roycroft from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland will complete a Master of Laws with a focus on the synergies between indigenous law and private law at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Pita graduated with an LLB (Hons) and a BA in Politics and Public Policy from Victoria University of Wellington in 2018.



CHELSEA WONG (TEO CHEW 潮州, SHUN TAK 順德)

Chelsea Wong from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland will complete a Master of Arts in American Studies – Public Humanities focusing on Asian diaspora experiences in the arts at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey.

Chelsea graduated with a BMus in Musicology and an LLB (Hons) from the University of Auckland in 2018.

FULBRIGHT US GRADUATE AWARDS

These awards are for promising US graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research at New Zealand institutions in any field.

Six US Graduates took up their awards in New Zealand this year.



MONICA DIX

Monica Dix from Chicago, Illinois, will research 'Drinking Water and Disaster Risk Governance in Canterbury, Aotearoa'. Her project will collaborate with Environment Canterbury on a scoping survey to evaluate the impacts of new water regulatory frameworks on risks and challenges to Canterbury's regional drinking water systems, capturing the impacts of a key water governance transition at the interface between policy and practice.

Monica has a BA in Geology and Politics from Oberlin College, Ohio.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - SARAH FLAIM

2001 Fulbright NZ Graduate Award



My Fulbright Fellowship unlocked opportunities, expanded connections and enabled me to cross physical and scientific boundaries, ultimately culminating in me landing my current role - a truly destination-changing experience.

In 2001, Sarah Flaim's Fulbright Award took her to the University of California, San Diego, where she completed a Master's and PhD in Bioengineering. Fast-forward and Sarah is now based in Brisbane, Australia, where she is Chief Operating Officer for the National Imaging Facility.

What would you do with a Fulbright?



KENDRICK HARDAWAY

Kendrick Hardaway, from West Lafayette, Indiana, will research 'Preparing Communities for Climate Change Uncertainty' at the University of Canterbury.

Kendrick has a BS in Biological Engineering from the University of Arkansas and is pursuing a PhD in Ecological Science and Engineering from Purdue University.



GABRIELLE (GABBY) LANGKILDE

Gabrielle Langkilde, from Pago Pago, American Samoa, will research 'Pacific Studies: Making Space for Pasifika Voices and Ways of Knowing in Academia' at the University of Auckland.

Gabby has a BA in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and a minor in Sociology from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.



PATRICK MONARI

Patrick Monari, from Madison, Wisconsin, will research 'Determining the hormonal and vocal responses of a New Zealand bird to artificial light' at the University of Auckland.

Patrick has a BA in Biology and Psychology from Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania and a PhD in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin.



PANIKAA TEEPLE

Panikaa Teeple, from Anchorage, Alaska, will study for a Master's Degree in public health, researching 'Tangata Whenua and their Healing Efforts from Historical Trauma' at the University of Auckland

Panikaa has a BA in Social work from the University of Anchorage, Alaska.



MELANIE (MEL) SCHWIMMER

Melanie Schwimmer, from San Diego, California, will study for a Master's Degree in Social Sciences and will research 'Investigating Legacies for LGBTQ+ Women from FIFA World Cup 2023 in New Zealand' at the University of Otago.

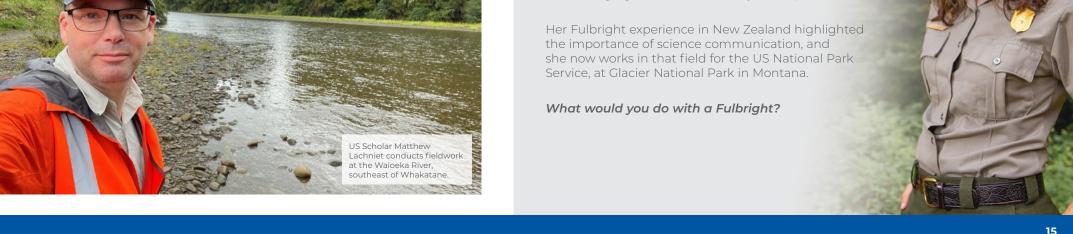
Mel has a BA in American Studies from Amherst College, Massachusetts



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - PERI SASNETT 2012 Fulbright US Graduate Award

My Fulbright experience was invaluable, showing me firsthand the importance of effective science communication and storytelling, and I've been pursuing that path ever since.

Peri Sasnett's Fulbright Award brought her to the University of Canterbury in 2012, where she completed a Masters in Geology. Her work focused on the Greendale Fault, which ruptured in 2010, beginning the damaging series of Canterbury earthquakes.



FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PROGRAMME

Fulbright New Zealand offers a range of awards to New Zealand and American academics, artists and professionals to research, teach, present their work and gain practical experience in each other's countries.

Awards range from small contributions towards short term visits to fully-funded exchanges of up to one academic year, including airfares, a health benefit plan and programme support.

FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND SCHOLAR AWARDS

These awards are for New Zealand academics, artists or professionals to lecture and/or conduct research in the US for three to five months.

Six awards were granted this year.



KATHRYN HAY

Kathryn Hay from Kapiti will research how neurodivergent learners can be supported to succeed in their work-integrated learning experiences at Drexel University, Philadelphia.

Kathryn is an Associate Professor in Social Work, and Associate Dean Work-Integrated Learning in the College of Health at Massey University.



JASON INGHAM

Jason Ingham from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland will research heritage and sacred architecture with a focus on vulnerability assessment and remediation at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

Jason is a Professor of Structural Engineering and the Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Auckland.



MAHSA MCCAULEY

Mahsa McCauley from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland will explore transforming bee welfare with secure Al-enhanced precision apiculture at the Farm Security Operations Centre (FSOC) at North Carolina A&T State University, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Mahsa is a Senior Lecturer in School of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Science at Auckland University of Technology.



MEI PENG

Mei Peng from Ōtepoti Dunedin will research parental decision-making on plant-based food choices at the University of California, Davis.

Mei is a Senior Lecturer in Sensory Science in the Department of Food Science at the University of Otago.



JESSE PIRINI (NGĀTI TUWHARETOA, TE WHAKATŌHEA)

Jesse Pirini from Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington will research how innovative data visualization can support Indigenous development at the University of Massachusetts (Amherst and Boston).

Jesse is a Senior Lecturer and Co-Director of Te Kahu o Te Ao-The Atom Innovation Space at Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington.



ASHLEY SHEARAR

Ashley Shearar, from Rotorua, will research the emerging field of young adult justice at Columbia University in New York.

Ashley is a Principal Inspector at the Office of the Inspectorate, Te Tari Tirohia, for the New Zealand Department of Corrections, Ara Poutama Aotearoa.

FULBRIGHT NGĀ PAE O TE MĀRAMATANGA SCHOLAR AWARD

This award is for a New Zealand academic, artist or professional to conduct research and/or lecture in the US for three to five months in the field of Indigenous Development.

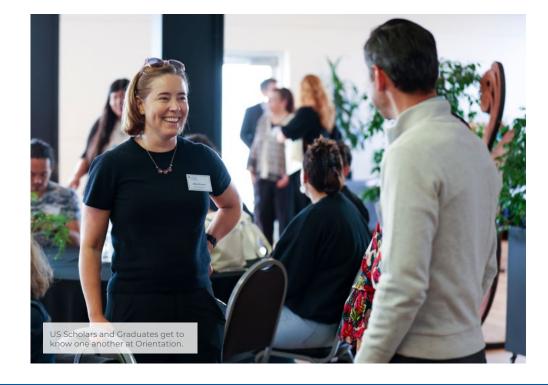


HONA BLACK (TŪHOE, TE WHĀNAU-A-APANUI, TE WHAKATŌHEA, TŪWHARETOA)

Hona Black will explore language interference with te reo Māori and the Hawaiian language at the University of Hawai'i.

Hona is a Senior Lecturer at Te Pūtahi-a-Toi: The School of Māori Knowedge, at Massey University.





FULBRIGHT-CREATIVE NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC WRITER'S RESIDENCY

This award is for a New Zealander of Pacific heritage to carry out work on a creative writing project exploring Pacific identity, culture or history at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa for three months.

One residency was granted this year.



DAVID FANE

David Fane, a New Zealand-born Samoan, will undertake a Fulbright Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers residency in Hawai'i

While there he will network with the local creative community through writing and workshops, undertake research within the Tagata Moana community in Hawai'i, and work on a new piece.

FULBRIGHT US SCHOLARS AWARDS

These awards are for US academics, artists or professionals to lecture and/or conduct research in New Zealand for three to five months.

Four US Scholars took up their awards in New Zealand this year.



ALEXANDRA (ALEX) ADAMS

Alexandra Adams, from Bozeman, Montana, will research 'Examining Models of Māori Indigenous Knowledge Incorporation in Health Promotion Programs' at The University of Auckland.

Alex is a Professor and the Director and Principal Investigator at the Centre for American Indian and Rural Health Equity (CAIRHE) at Montana State University. She has an MD in Medicine from the University of Illinois and a PhD in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.





SHEILA CROWELL

Sheila Crowell from Eugene, Oregon, will research 'Enhancing support for pregnant adolescents through a cross-cultural exchange of skills and resources in New Zealand' at Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington.

Sheila is a Professor of Psychology, and Director, at the Oregon Research for Clinical Health Innovations in Developmental Science (ORCHIDS) Lab at the University of Oregon.



MATTHEW LACHNIET

Matthew Lachniet from Las Vegas, Nevada, will research 'Fingerprinting the climate controls on Aotearoa New Zealand river water Isotopes' at NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research).

Matthew is a professor at the Geology Department at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. He has an MS in Geological Sciences, from Michigan State University, and a PhD in Geology, from Syracuse University.



KIRA OMELCHENKO

Kira Omelchenko, from Kansas, currently teaching in Ontario, is a music conductor. Her project involves collaborative performances with students, colleagues, and community members, as well as co-creating new music with local Indigenous and Classical composers in New Zealand at Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington.

Kira is an Associate Dean and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Music, at Wilfrid Laurier University. Starting this fall, Kira will be taking a new role as Associate Professor of Music and the Director of Orchestral Studies at James Madison University in Virginia.

She has an MA in Orchestral Conducting from the University of New Mexico-Main Campus and a DMA in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Iowa.

FULBRIGHT US GLOBAL SCHOLAR AWARD

This award allows US academics and professionals to engage in multi-country, trans-regional projects. Global scholars are able to research or combine teaching/research activity in two to three countries.

This year, two Global Scholars are travelling to New Zealand for a segment of their award.



NANCY NEUDAUER

Nancy Ann Neudauer, from Portland, Oregon, will research 'Connecting far corners of the world through Matroids and Creating a Network of Women in Mathematics' at Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington.

Nancy is a Professor of Mathematics at Pacific University, Oregon.



BRIAN WALKER

Brian Walker, from Fairfield, Connecticut, will research 'Penguins and Microplastics – a Global Collaboration on Research Techniques and Population Education' at the University of Otago.

Brian is an Associate Dean and a Professor of Biology at Fairfield University, Connecticut.

IAN AXFORD (NEW ZEALAND) FELLOWSHIPS IN PUBLIC POLICY

These fellowships, offered by the Ian Axford Fellowships Board and funded by various New Zealand government agencies, are for outstanding mid-career US professionals to research and gain first-hand experience of public policy in New Zealand for three to five months. Fulbright New Zealand administers these Fellowships on behalf of the Ian Axford Fellowships Board.

Two fellowships were granted this year.



RACHEL LEVINSON-WALDMAN

Rachel Levinson-Waldman, from Washington, D.C., will research 'Social Media Surveillance in New Zealand: Landscape, Best Practices, and Guardrails' while gaining experience at the Office of the Privacy Commissioner.

Rachel is the Managing Director, Liberty & National Security Program at the Brennan Centre for Justice in Washington. She has a BA in Religion from Williams College, Massachusetts, and a JD from the University of Chicago Law School.



MEGAN SEEDS

Megan Seeds, from Hennepin County, Minnesota, will research 'Strategies to transform digital experience in New Zealand's social service delivery' while gaining experience at the Ministry of Social Development.

Megan is Director of Digital Experience at Hennepin County, Minneapolis. She graduated with a BA in Psychology and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin, and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.



Above: Fulbright NZ Science and Innovation Graduate Michelle Meaclem at COP28 in the UAE.

Connecting people. Connecting nations.



FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND

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