



2021

GRANTEE BOOKLET



FULBRIGHT
New Zealand

TE TŪĀPAPA MĀTAURANGA
O AOTEAROA ME AMERIKA

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Fulbright Science and Innovation
Graduate award grantee Sophie
Burling.
Photo courtesy of Sophie Burling.

MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS



"On behalf of the New Zealand Government, I offer my warm congratulations to the 2021 Fulbright recipients. Since its inception over seventy years ago, the Fulbright programme has helped foster relationships between Aotearoa New Zealand and the United States through academic excellence and cultural exchange. Your scholarships will provide you with a wealth of experiences that will enrich your lives. Your challenge is to translate that into a bright future benefitting you, your whānau and your community. I wish you all the best."

Rt. Hon Nanaia Mahuta

*Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand
Honorary Chairperson, Fulbright New Zealand*



"Kia ora and congratulations to the 2021 Fulbright grantees! It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this distinguished global community of scholars. We honor your commitment to excellence within your chosen disciplines, and also toward the enduring relationship between Aotearoa and the United States. Senator J. William Fulbright envisioned the Fulbright program as a vehicle toward a more peaceful future through greater mutual understanding across countries and cultures. As a recipient, you have the skills, ability, and responsibility to carry on the Fulbright tradition of academic excellence and relationship building. I wish you continued success and look forward to learning more about your adventures and achievements. Kia kaha!"

Kevin Covert

*Chargé d'affaires a.i. U.S. Mission New Zealand
Honorary Chair, Fulbright New Zealand*



"Tēnā koutou. On behalf of Fulbright New Zealand's Board of Directors and staff, my warmest congratulations to the 2021 Fulbright grantees. You are now part of a long and esteemed tradition of educational and cultural exchange between the US and New Zealand. A Fulbright scholarship is a wonderful opportunity to enhance both your academic and cultural knowledge, forge new and lifelong connections, and see parts of the world that may be new to you. However, the mana of receiving a Fulbright will last much longer than the duration of your programme. We hope that you will continue to share your stories and successes with us and remain engaged well into the future. We wish you all the very best on this next part of your life's journey. Ngā manaakitanga."

Wendy Larner

*Provost Victoria University of Wellington
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, private philanthropists and alumni 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.

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.

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



SOPHIE BURLING

Sophie Burling from Palmerston North will research tissue engineering techniques at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, Massachusetts.

Sophie graduated with a BSc in 2018, a BSc (Hons First Class) in 2019, and is a PhD candidate at Massey University.



JOANNA HIKAKA NGĀRUAHINE

Joanna Hikaka from Auckland will research the development of pro-equity healthcare interventions for older adults at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

Joanna graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy (Dist) from the University of Otago in 2002 and is a PhD candidate at the University of Auckland.

RENNIE QIN

Rennie Qin from Auckland will complete a Master of Public Health specialising in global health at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Rennie graduated with an MBChB and a BMedSc (Hons First Class) from the University of Auckland in 2016.



HARIATA TAI RAKENA

WAIKATO: NGĀTI HAUĀ, NGĀTI MĀHANGA

Hariata Tai Rakena from Christchurch will complete a PhD in International Health with a concentration in social behavioral interventions at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Hariata graduated with a BA from the University of Canterbury in 2010, a PGDipA and GDip from Auckland University of Technology in 2015 and 2016, and an MA from McGill University in 2021.



FULBRIGHT SCIENCE AND INNOVATION GRADUATE AWARDS *(continued)*



MARYNA SOKOLOVA

Maryna Sokolova from Palmerston North will research *Leptospira* and Leptospirosis at Yale School of Public Health in New Haven, Connecticut.

Maryna is a PhD candidate in Veterinary Science at Massey University.



SAM YOON

Sam Yoon from Auckland will complete a Master in Public Policy specialising in technology policy at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Sam graduated with an LLB/ BCom (Hons) from the University of Auckland in 2018.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – EMA HAO'ULI

Fulbright Science and Innovation Award, 2019

Ema Hao'uli was awarded a Fulbright Science and Innovation Award in 2019, and recently graduated with a Master of Public Administration from Cornell University.

Before heading to Cornell, Ema worked in policy in Wellington, focusing on the recognition and protection of Māori rights and interests under Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ Treaty of Waitangi in intellectual property law. At Cornell, Ema focused on economics, data analysis and modelling, learning a range of approaches to and techniques for data-driven policy-making.

Like many in her cohort, Ema's was not the typical Fulbright experience. She came back to New Zealand mid-way through her second semester, arriving the day before the border was closed to non-residents due to COVID. She would remain in New Zealand for ten months of her two-year programme.

"The week I left the States, I was supposed to be in Memphis, Tennessee for the Fulbright Enrichment program. I had a summer internship lined up at a think tank in Hawai'i. I was enrolled in a fall semester course on Korean public administration which would have involved a trip to a Seoul. But, like everyone else, 2020 had other plans for me!"

Ema returned to the US for her final semester in January 2021. Despite the disruption to her studies and her plans, Ema says she wouldn't change a thing.

"Looking at the bigger picture, I have been very fortunate. And there've been so many silver linings and life lessons the whole way through," she said.

"My Fulbright experience and the pandemic together really re-shaped what 'making the most of it' meant to me. I learned how to make time for things that weren't just study," she said.

"In my last semester, I climbed frozen waterfalls as part of a PE class, I wrote a 3000-word piece for publication on the Pacific Islander experience in the US, and I organized a virtual professional development event with alumni for women in my degree programme. I probably wouldn't have done any of these things were it not for COVID – and of course, there's no way I could have done any of it without Fulbright New Zealand."



FULBRIGHT-NGĀ PAE O TE MĀRAMATANGA GRADUATE AWARD

These awards are for promising New Zealand graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research in the US in the field of Indigenous Development.

One award was granted this year.



JENNI TUPU NGĀPUHI, TE AUPŌURI,
NGĀTI HINE, SAMOA

Jenni Tupu from Tāmaki Makaurau will research identity development from an Indigenous perspective in relation to traditional practices of kinship adoption towards a PhD at the University of Otago.

Jenni graduated with a Graduate Diploma in Leadership (Māori Development) from Unitec Institute of Technology in 2005, a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership & Management in 2009, and a Master of Indigenous Studies with Distinction from the University of Otago in 2012.

“The most critical lesson that I learnt on my Fulbright journey is that it is people that matter the most. He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.”

- **TE PŪHO KATENE** (Ngāti Toarangatira, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Whātua)
Fulbright-NPM Graduate, 2017

FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND GENERAL GRADUATE AWARDS

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

Four awards were granted this year.

ASHLEA GILLON NGĀTI AWA, NGĀPUHI

Ashlea Gillon from Auckland will research Indigenous sovereignty, wellness, and resilience at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Honolulu, O'ahu, Hawai'i.

Ashlea graduated with a BA in Māori Studies in 2012, a GradDipArts in 2014, a PGDipPH in Māori Health in 2015, and an MPH (Hons First Class) in 2017. from the University of Auckland.



VICTORIA MACANN

Victoria Macann from Rotorua will research the relationships between efficacy beliefs and the implementation and teaching of computational thinking at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

Victoria graduated with a BSc in Biology from the University of Canterbury in 2009, and an MEd in Digital Education (Hons First Class) from Massey University in 2018.



FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND GENERAL GRADUATE AWARDS (continued)



HENRIETTA MCNEILL

Henrietta McNeill from Invercargill will research criminal deportations to the Pacific at the University of California Los Angeles, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and the Lewis & Clark Law School in Oregon.

Henrietta graduated with a BA (Hons First Class) in Political Science/ European Union Studies in 2012, and an MA (Distinction) in European Studies in 2014 from the University of Canterbury and is a PhD candidate in International, Political and Strategic Studies at the Australian National University.



EILISH WILSON

Eilish Wilson from Nelson will complete a Master of Fine Arts at CalArts in Los Angeles, California.

Eilish graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Hons First Class) at Te Kōkī, New Zealand School of Music, Victoria University/ Massey University.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – HENRY LANE

Fulbright Science and Innovation Award, 2016

Dr Henry Lane spent one year at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) as a Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher in 2016–2017. Henry's study at VIMS contributed to his PhD in Zoology (2018) from the University of Otago, where his thesis was formally recognised by the University of Otago Division of Sciences as being of exceptional quality.

Henry's principal area of research is marine biosecurity, specialising in aquatic disease. During his time at VIMS, Henry was involved with research on varying aspects of oyster farming in the Chesapeake Bay, including selective breeding, on-farm biosecurity, and understanding host-disease interactions.

Henry says, "A definite perk of studying marine biology is field work, which allowed me to visit nearly every US state along the Atlantic coast. I was exposed to small rural communities and locations that were well off the beaten track."

These rural small-town visits enriched Henry's experiences beyond expectations and remain some of his most fond memories from his time in the US.

Henry is now a marine biosecurity scientist at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), following two years as a senior scientist at the Animal Health Laboratory—New Zealand's national reference laboratory.

"Primarily I work on understanding what drives aquatic diseases, particularly in light of climate change, and how to manage aquatic disease to reduce its impact on fisheries and aquaculture production."

Henry says that the skills and perspectives he developed during his Fulbright experience have shaped his progression as a young scientist. "I am grateful to Fulbright New Zealand for such a wonderful opportunity and I look forward to visiting friends and colleagues at VIMS when the time comes."



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-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.

One award was granted this year.

POUNAMU JADE AIKMAN NGĀTI MANIAPOTO, TAINUI, NGĀI TE RANGI, NGĀTI AWA

Pounamu Jade Aikman, from Gisborne, Auckland, and Timaru, will research comparative Indigenous experiences of settler colonialism between Aotearoa and the United States.

He will be based in the History Department at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



“We must try to expand the boundaries of human wisdom, empathy and perception, and there is no way of doing that except through education.”

– SENATOR J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – PROFESSOR EDWINA PIO

Fulbright NZ Travel Award, 2014

Edwina Pio was awarded a Fulbright NZ Travel grant in 2014 where she travelled to both Philadelphia and the Jesuit University at Boston College.

At the Academy of Management Conference in Philadelphia, Edwina presented on various aspects of diversity linked to pedagogy, Indigenous peoples and gender. While visiting Boston College she enjoyed the opportunity to discuss different ways diversity can be interwoven into postgraduate programmes. Edwina has been a visiting professor at Boston College for many years and the Fulbright award further enhanced her relationships with a range of people.

Over the course of her career, Edwina has been a University Director of Diversity, a trustee of the Religious Diversity Centre of New Zealand and played a key advisory role on a piloted government-led intercultural competence programme.

Her pioneering research has had significant implications for how ethnic minority migrants are (de)constructed in organisations, and how religion and ethnicity are powerfully entwined forces in business and society in New Zealand and internationally.

For her services to intersectional diversity, Edwina was awarded the Royal Society's Te Rangi Hiroa medal in 2019.

In 2020 she was elected to the Auckland University of Technology council, and in 2021 she was appointed to the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Government Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry on the terrorist attacks in Christchurch.

Edwina is currently Professor of Diversity at AUT, the only academic position of its kind in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Of her Fulbright award, Edwina says, "the very word Fulbright opens doors and it is absolutely an honour to be part of the distinguished Fulbright alumni."



Connecting people. Connecting nations.



FULBRIGHT
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