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## MEDIA RELEASE

# American partner provides for more US Fulbright students to New Zealand

Fulbright New Zealand recently formalised a partnership with the New York-based American New Zealand Association (ANZA) to implement additional awards for US graduate students. The charitable not-for-profit organisation's mission is "to assist the growth of interchange between New Zealand and the United States through support of educational and research opportunities between the two countries". This provides a natural fit with the Fulbright programme's provision of educational exchange awards between the two countries.



Fulbright New Zealand Executive Director Mele Wendt and ANZA Chairman Ian Phillips sign a memorandum of understanding, with ANZA Board Members (L-R) Graeme Lindsay, Nancy Gallagher, Joan Snyder, Geoff Andrews, Brendon O'Sullivan and (seated) Bettye Martin Musham

Following the devastating Canterbury earthquakes of September 2010 and February 2011, ANZA established a fund to assist in relief and rebuilding efforts in Christchurch. Through significant fundraising efforts in the US, ANZA has thus raised almost NZ\$1 million for earthquake relief, applied primarily towards education-focused projects.

On signing the Memorandum of Understanding with Fulbright New Zealand, Ian Phillips Chairman of ANZA said, "We see the partnership as a very positive move as ANZA further develops its programs of education and research grants. The ongoing nature of the agreement means we will look forward to providing opportunities for a growing number of students to participate in both the academic and broader cultural benefits long associated with Fulbright awards."

Fulbright New Zealand Executive Director Mele Wendt is delighted with the partnership, especially as it helps to partly redress the current imbalance between the number of New Zealand and American graduate awards.

The new Fulbright-ANZA Graduate Award has the same requirements and entitlements as core Fulbright US Graduate Awards. The first recipient, Matt Hanson from Sandy, Utah, will arrive with nine other American Fulbright graduate students in January 2013. He will complete a Master of Science degree in geology at the University of Canterbury. A second recipient will be selected in the next application round of Fulbright US Graduate Awards, which closes on 17

October. Interested American students should see <http://us.fulbrightonline.org> for further details.

## ENDS

*Fulbright New Zealand was established in 1948 to promote mutual understanding through educational and cultural exchanges between New Zealand and the United States of America. The Fulbright programme offers a range of prestigious awards for New Zealand and American graduate students, academics, artists and professionals to study, research and teach in each other's countries. Fulbright New Zealand offers over 70 exchange awards each year – half to students and half to scholars – and more than 1,500 New Zealanders and 1,200 Americans have benefited from a Fulbright award to date. The programme is mainly funded by the US and New Zealand governments with additional funding from award sponsors, private philanthropists and alumni donors.*

*See [www.fulbright.org.nz](http://www.fulbright.org.nz) for details about Fulbright awards and how to apply, or download a Media Fact Sheet of further background information here:*

*[www.fulbright.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/mediafactsheet.pdf](http://www.fulbright.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/mediafactsheet.pdf)*

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