

# BRIGHT SPARKS

## Cover Story: The Fulbright New Zealand Awards Ceremony 2022



*Also in this issue:* Fulbright in the News | New Publications by Fulbright Alumni | In Memoriam | Cover story: Fulbright Awards Ceremony 2022 | Grantee Experience: Meet Dexter, the church beatboxer turned New York jazz drumming student | Alumni Spotlight: Dr Sarah-Jane Paine “Women in science look like your aunties, cousins and tīpuna” | Fulbright Events: Good Works Seminars, Mid-year Programme, Awards Ceremony | Around the Office


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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Winter/Spring 2022 issue of Bright Sparks — the Awards Ceremony special!

It's been a busy year thus far with our usual calendar of events, seminars, scholarship deadlines and of course, the Fulbright NZ Awards Ceremony. We were so thrilled that the Ceremony was able to go ahead as planned and wasn't derailed by our friend Covid. Ironically, perhaps it was due to Covid's continuing spectre that there was such a wonderful sense of camaraderie and gratitude in the room. With so many events still being postponed or cancelled it always feels special when we can gather together in person.

This year, we enjoyed holding the Awards Ceremony at the National Library as opposed to the Grand Hall and Legislative Council Chamber at Parliament where it has been held for the last few years. Minister Aupito Sio (Minister for Pacific Peoples, Minister for Courts, and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs) officiated the event and we're very grateful to him for making time for us in his busy schedule. We're also very grateful to Wendy Larner, Provost of Te Herenga Waka Victoria University and Chair of the Fulbright NZ Board for emceeing, and to Kevin Covert, US Deputy Chief of Mission who presented the awards. This was one of Kevin's last public events before taking up his new role as the State Department's Director of Afghanistan Affairs, and we've been so appreciative of Kevin's tremendous support for Fulbright in New Zealand.

For many of us, this has felt like a very long winter. While we hunkered down away from the freezing temperatures and wild weather that has affected many parts of the country, we also watched from afar as extraordinary heatwaves wreaked havoc on parts of Western Europe and the US. Geologist and climate change expert Prof Andrea Dutton, who was a Fulbright US Scholar to New Zealand in 2020, is a regular contributor to *The Guardian* and recently wrote about the devastating impact of these heatwaves. She notes that, while the statistics are bleak, there is still time to stem the tide of climate catastrophe, so long as we act now.

The research into rising sea-levels that Prof Dutton undertook while on award in New Zealand has directly contributed to her understanding of

the effects of global warming in general. Reading articles such as the one mentioned, I am reminded that at the heart of the Fulbright programme alongside deep people to people connections, is also the advancement of global knowledge and scholarship. The work that Fulbrighters do often has important real-world implications, and this has been the case for the entire 75-year history of the Fulbright programme – a programme that has helped foster an incredible output of knowledge and expertise and that has had a profound effect on global learning and working towards solutions to global problems.

The newest cohort of Fulbrighters who we celebrate in this issue of Bright Sparks are part of this lineage. I will be very interested to see where their journeys will take them and the wonderful contribution to knowledge, creativity, and global affairs that I know they will make.



EDITOR'S NOTE

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of material in this newsletter, Fulbright New Zealand does not accept liability for any errors or omissions. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Fulbright New Zealand.  
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# CONTENTS

- page 4** In the News
- page 6** In Publication
- page 7** In Memoriam
- page 8** Cover Story: The 2022 Fulbright NZ Awards Ceremony
- page 14** Grantee Experience: Meet Dexter, the church beatboxer turned New York jazz drumming student
- page 16** Alumni Spotlight: Women in science look like your aunties, cousins and tīpuna, says Dr Sarah-Jane Paine
- page 19** Fulbright NZ Events
- page 20** Around the Office

*The 2022 Fulbright NZ Graduates at the Awards Ceremony held at the National Library. See page 8 for details.*



Fulbright NZ alumnus Rez Gardi was the lead on the newly formed Refugee Advisory Group set up to provide support for government decision-makers on matters that impact refugees in New Zealand. Rez has done some incredible work with refugees and human rights over the past few years. She was our December Good Works guest speaker in 2021 which you can view [here](#).

“Finding the best responses and solutions for the complex issues facing the millions of displaced people across the globe requires input from those with lived experiences of displacement for the development of policies that are closer to the reality on the ground. Refugee participation is not only an ‘ethical imperative’. It brings the knowledge, experience, and perspective of refugees more fully into policy formulation and decision-making stages of the policy cycle.” - Rez Gardi



When Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern gave the Harvard Commencement Speech in May this year, some of our Fulbrighters currently on award at Harvard were there to welcome her.

Pictured from left Sam Yoon (Fulbright Science and Innovation Grad 2021, completing an MA in Public Policy), NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Elyjana Roach (Fulbright General Grad 2020, graduating with an MA in Architecture from the Graduate School of Design), Rennie Qin (Fulbright NZ Science and Innovation Grad 2021, graduating with a Master of Public Health.)



Huge congratulations to Fulbright NZ alumnus Sam Trubridge who was named Wellingtonian of the year in the Arts Category in the most recent Welly Awards. Sam has done incredible work as the Director of the Performance Arcade. You can read an interview with Sam in this issue of [Bright Sparks](#).

## ALUMNI FUNDING AVAILABLE

*The Fulbright New Zealand Alumni Seminar grant allows for Fulbright alumni based in NZ to apply for a grant of up to \$1,150 towards the planning and delivery of a seminar/presentation in New Zealand on a topic related to their specialist field.*

*This grant will support you to share your research, build and grow connections, and contribute to the wider NZ community through your mahi.*

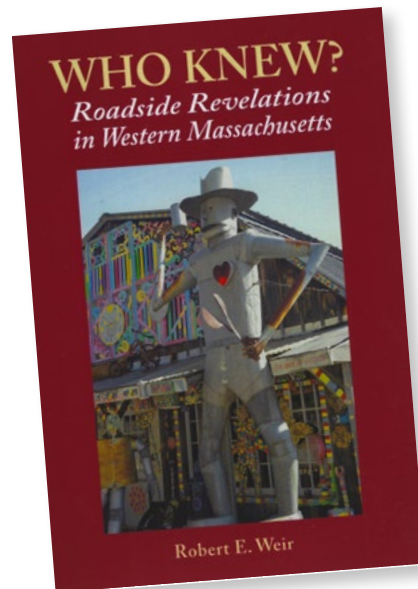
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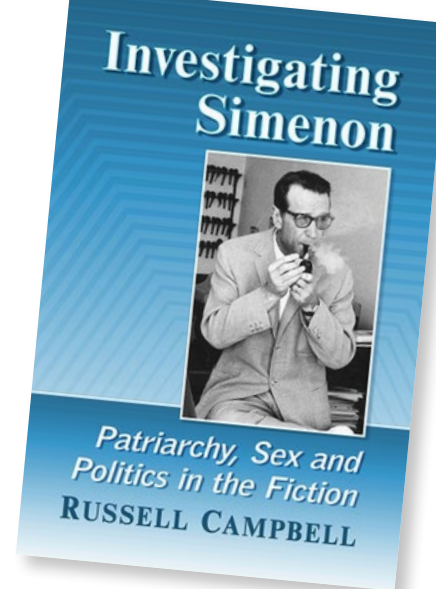


## WHAT'S NEW IN PRINT FROM FULBRIGHT ALUMNI

- **Coco Solid** credits her Fulbright Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers Residency Award with giving her the time and space to sketch out the first draft of her book, *How to Loiter in a Turf War*. This is Coco's first book and we hope not her last! Coco is a multi-talented artist with music, performance, visual arts, and now literature in her kete of creative skills.



- **Rob Weir** (US Fulbright Scholar, 2001) recently published a book titled *Who Knew: Roadside Revelations in Western Massachusetts*. It's a book written for a general audience that looks at oddities and unusual sites in the four westernmost counties of Massachusetts.



- Fulbright NZ alumni **Russell Campbell's** latest book is an investigation into the work of Belgian crime writer and psychological novelist Georges Simenon, creator of Chief Inspector Maigret. *Investigating Simenon* focuses on Simenon's work in the context of shifting gender relations in Western society. Russell was also our August Good Works seminar speaker which you can view on Fulbright's Youtube page.

- 2022 Fulbright General Graduate awardee **Jordan Hamel** enjoyed double success when his first book was published not long before the announcement of his Fulbright award. *Everyone is Everyone Except You* is a collection of poems described as a "brilliant & compulsive read" as well as "full of heart and all the trouble the heart demands". We can expect more great things to come as Jordan embarks on his next adventure at the University of Michigan where he will complete an MA in Creative Writing.



We were sad to hear of the passing of Fulbright alumna Le Mamea Taulapapa Sefula Isaia Ioane. Le Mamea was a Fulbright Scholar in 1979 and attended various institutions in the US.

***"For Le Mamea Taulapapa Sefulu Isaia Ioane it was important to look up. He saw a relationship between one's body language and one's sense of self-worth. "Look up and work hard", he once told an interviewer, "don't look down because all you see is dirty feet! Look up and you will succeed!"***





## THE 2022 FULBRIGHT NZ AWARDS CEREMONY

*The Fulbright Awards Ceremony is always one of the highlights of the Fulbright events calendar. Normally held in the grandeur of the Legislative Council Chamber and Grand Hall at Parliament, this year the awards took place in the stunning surroundings of the Te Ahumairangi Foyer at the National Library.*

Wendy Larner, Provost of Te Herenga Waka Victoria University and Chair of the Fulbright Board did a brilliant job of emceeing, and we were delighted that Hon Aupito Sio (Minister for Pacific Peoples, Minister for Courts, and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs) was able to host the event. Fulbright alumna and poet Karlo Mila was this year's alumni speaker and read a rousing poem as part of her speech. Alongside Minister Aupito, we were also lucky to have the US Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Kevin Covert speak at the event. This was one of Kevin's last public events before leaving Aotearoa for his new role as the Director of Afghanistan Affairs at the State Department. Kia kaha Kevin!

It was a joyous event filled with lots of warmth, energy and heart. Thank you to all the guests and family members who came along to celebrate the success of the 2022 Fulbright NZ grantees and who made it such a fun and celebratory event.

TOP LEFT: Fulbright alumna Karlo Mila giving her alumni speech

BOTTOM LEFT: Minister Sio officiated the event.

TOP RIGHT: The full 2022 Fulbright NZ cohort

BOTTOM RIGHT: Awardees after receiving their certificates.



***"In these volatile and complex times, institutions like Fulbright New Zealand and you - our awardees - inspire us through your commitment to seek knowledge and understanding, and contribute back to society."***

*- Hon Aupito Sio*



TOP LEFT: FBNZ Science and Innovation Graduate Briana Steven

TOP RIGHT: FBNZ General Graduate Joseph Xulué with family and guests

BOTTOM LEFT: FBNZ General Graduate Melody Kim (second from left) with friends

BOTTOM RIGHT: FBNZ General Graduate Dexter Stanley-Tauvao and family

BOTTOM RIGHT: FBNZ Science and Innovation Graduate Rebekah White







## 2022 FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND AWARD GRANTEES

*The Fulbright New Zealand scholarship award winners this year are:*

### **Fulbright New Zealand Science and Innovation Graduate Awards**

Anna Clark, Melody Kim, Alehandrea Raiha Manuel (Ngāti Pōrou), Aya Morris, Sophie Oliff, Briana Steven, Georgia Third, Mattias Tolhurst, Rebekah White, Rachael Yelder

### **Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards**

Isabella Gregory, Ngarangi Haerewa (Te-Whanau-Ā-Apanui), Jordan Hamel, Jack Harré, Zoë Henry (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu, Makefu - Niue), Bronte Heron, Rayhan Langdana, Pete McKenzie, Leola Meynell, Dexter Stanley-Tauvao, (Vailoa Faleata, Tāga i Savai'i), Liam Wooding, (Ngāti Hinearo, Ngāti Tuera/Te Ati Haunui-a-Pāpārangi), Joseph Xulué (Siloam - New Caledonia, Lufi Lufi, Fagamalo - Samoa)

### **Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award**

Nikki Barrett (nee Haereroa) (Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Porou)

### **Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Awards**

Apo Aporosa, Tago Mharapara, Rachel Simon-Kumar

### **Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Scholar Award**

Will Flavell (Ngā Puhi, Ngāti Whatua, Tainui, Ngāti Maniapoto)



*TOP LEFT: 2022 FBNZ Graduates*

*BOTTOM LEFT: US Deputy Chief of Mission Kevin Covert*

*BOTTOM RIGHT: FBNZ General Graduate Zoë Henry and  
FB-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Nikki Barrett*

### **HAVE YOU JOINED FULBRIGHTER?**

Fulbrighter was launched in 2019 and is an exclusive online networking platform specifically designed for Fulbright alumni and grantees. It is a space where you can share your news and events, build relationships, or collaborate on projects. To register for Fulbrighter visit <https://fulbrighternetwork.com/signup>

Fulbrighter is also available as an app for iOS and Android.



## MEET DEXTER, THE CHURCH BEATBOXER TURNED NEW YORK JAZZ DRUMMING STUDENT

*This article was written by Katerina Fauvell for Stuff and is reprinted with permission from the author. Dexter Stanley-Tauvao is one of this year's Fulbright General Graduate Awardees.*

*Reprinted with permission from Stuff.*



Like many Samoans, Dexter Stanley-Tauvao's first experiences of music came at church.

As a plucky 3-year-old, Stanley-Tauvao would beatbox along with the sounds of the electric piano, much to the annoyance of his grandmother.

And while his unique brand of vocal percussion wasn't always well received, it didn't take long until Stanley-Tauvao got his hands on a skin drum, before becoming the proud owner of a drum kit at age 6.

Having spent his formative years honing his skills in the home shed, the Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington New Zealand School of Music graduate was preparing to move to Queens, New York to study towards a Masters degree in jazz performance.

In his words, relocating to the Big Apple was a move to "where it's really happening".

Stanley-Tauvao's two-year stateside adventure has come after winning a Fulbright New Zealand scholarship to study at the Aaron Copland School of Music where he hoped to develop his arranging and composing skills in the hopes of bringing that knowledge back home.

The 27-year-old cited an eclectic range of musical influences from reggae phenomenon Bob Marley through to Stevie Wonder, but it wasn't until he reached Hutt Valley High School where he got his first formal exposure to jazz.

"They were like, 'it's a really technical, advanced kind of music, and if you want to get really good at drums, you should keep pushing with jazz,'" Stanley-Tauvao explained.

To this day, the stickman still gets satisfaction

from the experience of sharing and producing music with others.

"There's happiness to be found when things sound good. It's a real pleasure to be part of the reason why they sound good, to see people dancing, people are enjoying the sounds that you're making, and so it's a real honour to be part of that.

Dexter Stanley-Tauvao describes jazz music performance as a conversation, a type of "call and reponse".

"For me, personally, in jazz, it's all about conversation. It's call and response. It's listening at the same time as playing ... it's being in the moment, and communicating with the other musicians."

While bands have a general idea of what they want to play, there were "a lot of unknowns" with each performer bringing their own style and personality to the music, he said.

"It's super exciting, and a real joy to be in the moment like that and talk with your hands and your feet. It's the pleasure of creating a really nice moment together."

The Fulbright programme was established by US Senator and Rhodes Scholar, J William Fulbright in 1946 to promote education and cultural exchanges between the US and other countries, with the New Zealand component starting two years later.

This year, Fulbright New Zealand executive director Penelope Borland said 10 science and innovation scholarships were awarded, as well as 12 general graduate scholarships, including Stanley-Tauvao, each valued at US\$40,000.

### SHARE YOUR STORY – CONTRIBUTE TO BRIGHT SPARKS

We love hearing about what Fulbright alumni are up to. Help us to celebrate your achievements and milestones, your research and experiences, travel adventures, and more.

Send us your articles, blog posts, photo essays or anything you'd like shared with the Fulbright community. We email Bright Sparks to over 2500 Fulbright New Zealand alumni around the world, plus friends of Fulbright in various sectors across New Zealand.

Email your ideas to [comms@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:comms@fulbright.org.nz)





# WOMEN IN SCIENCE LOOK LIKE YOUR AUNTIES, COUSINS AND TĪPUNA, SAYS DR SARAH-JANE PAINE

*This article was written by Mairatea Mohi for Stuff and is reprinted with permission. Dr Sarah-Jane Paine was awarded a Fulbright travel grant in 2007.*

*Dr Sarah-Jane Paine of Tūhoe descent has recently been appointed as the new research director of Growing Up in New Zealand, the largest longitudinal study of child development in Aotearoa.*

Paine brings an expertise in kaupapa Māori and a commitment to making tangata whenua a priority to the national project, conducted by the University of Auckland.

The Growing Up in New Zealand study has been closely following the lives of more than 6000 New Zealand kids over the past 12 years. The study provides information about what shapes a child's early development and how interventions might be targeted early, to give every New Zealand child the best start in life.

It's a longitudinal data set, which surveys the same group over a longer period of time. This

means that when any developments are detected, positive or negative, changes to the individuals' lives can be analysed. Using things like socioeconomic status, location and wellbeing, the catalyst and impediments of major issues can be easily identified. The data collected is incredibly important for informing not only our own view of the nation but advising policy and services for the wellbeing of Aotearoa.

Paine grew up in Wairoa, the youngest of five children. A child of the kōhanga reo initiative, she said being Māori was part of the "norm" for her.

Here she talks about her upbringing, and

the future she wishes to see for the tamariki, mokopuna of Aotearoa, in an International Women's Day interview.

**What was your experience of 'growing up in New Zealand'?**

Ko Ngati Rongo te hapū, ko Tūhoe te iwi. I come from Te Urewera but was raised in Wairoa, where my mum and sister still stay.

At least half of Wairoa was Māori. Being Māori was my normal. Everyone at school – Pākehā, Chinese, Māori – got stuck into te ao Māori. Everyone learnt a little te reo and I didn't actually think about being Māori until I moved out of Wairoa and went to boarding school.

I always enjoyed school and that was thanks to my support systems. I was fortunate to have a good school experience and was even more privileged to have had positive experiences with science. But I know that isn't the same for all Māori and Pasifika students and I don't want young people to feel like science isn't for them because of this.

I didn't have the best grades but having supportive communities around me made all the difference. So when I experienced disappointments, I had people who could not only pick me up but build my confidence back too.

Paine recalls her upbringing in Wairoa, where "being Māori was part of my normal".

**How did you get your start in research?**

I grew up with the expectation that I would go to university. The professions that were encouraged at the time were law and medicine. I didn't know a thing about law, so I pursued medicine.

While in this degree I faced my first ever hurdle. In my first week of med school I had a professor look at my grades then tell me I would "never become a doctor". And I believed him. It was the first time I had someone actively discourage me from pursuing something.

I went on to do a science degree instead because I knew I had a passion for it. But the experience revealed to me the importance of listening to my puku. Listening to my gut allowed me to dig deep and ask myself, "What do I enjoy and what is good for me?" I knew I wanted to do something that gave back to te ao Māori, but I didn't know

what that looked like at the time.

After my bachelor's degree I was unsure of my next step. I approached another professor, who thankfully, pushed me to pursue a master's degree. I had never imagined this for myself, so I remember being so positively overwhelmed that I rang my parents.

But once out of university I was doing research in labs and with rats. I learnt so much from these experiences, but I knew in my puku that I wanted to do something with people.

I finally got to pursue kaupapa Māori research with the Eru Pōmare Māori Health Research Centre and Te Kupenga Hauora Māori.

A lot of what I bring to Growing Up in New Zealand had been informed by these projects.

"I knew I wanted to give back to Māori, but I didn't know what that looked like at the time."

**What do you hope to achieve with the Growing Up in New Zealand study?**

Growing Up in New Zealand is study of this whenua (land), so we need to make it for tangata whenua. I really believe as tangata whenua we believe in kaupapa that support the wellbeing of everyone here. This is our expression of manaakitanga – to take care of everyone here.

I feel very fortunate that I've got a lot of support. I want to help this study try to figure out how we can engage with whānau in a way that feels natural and normal. I want the study to be a place of connection that invokes pride.

I feel very supported in my role. Within my mahi (work), I receive tautoko (support) from my colleagues, which makes me feel like the timing is right and Growing Up in New Zealand is taking the right step by putting me in this role. But I also feel the support from my Māori colleagues, researchers and community service providers.

When I follow my puku and Māori communities tell me, "Yep, haere tonu, keep going," then I know I'm heading in the right direction.

A big goal of mine is to build back the Māori cohort of the research participants. I want to mihi (give thanks) to the rangatahi (young people) and whānau who have given us their time for this study. It's a big commitment, and we really appreciate it. Over time, we have lost touch with some whānau,



but we want to let them know that we still care for and are looking for them.

If they feel engaged and feel like I might be able to bring the value they saw in this study forward then I hope they'll come back to the study and back to the whānau.

“Trust your puku – I get the privilege to watch many rangatahi step into their leadership,” says Paine.

**Is there anything you would like to say to the future generation of wāhine Māori scientists?**

If there were any rangatahi Māori reading this I would like to tell them, women in science looks just like you.

It looks like your aunties, your kuia (grandmother) and your mothers. It looks like your tīpuna (ancestors). The idea that women in science are only created in universities is not true. Wāhine Māori have always been scientists, and we've always been engaged in the process of research – asking questions about the world, finding ways in which to operate and coming up with solutions to help our communities.

Women in science might look like me, it might look like other women working in universities, but it also looks like wāhine Māori at our dining tables, our marae and our kitchens.

Tamariki might have their own version of “the professor” who tell them they can’t do it. But I want these kids to trust their own puku, talk to their whānau and follow their aspirations. Because we will all be better for it if more girls, more rangatahi Māori and Pasifika were to enter the research and science space.

So listen to your puku, whaia te iti kahurangi and strive for something of great value.

*The final day of Mid-Year Programme and everyone was feeling exhausted but happy!*



# FULBRIGHT NZ MID-YEAR PROGRAMME

*Mid-year programme is Fulbright NZ's three-day long orientation that gives our new grantees all the tools they need to prepare for life in the US. Grantees tend to come from vastly different places, backgrounds, and disciplines, but somehow, by the time the three days comes to an end, there is a genuine sense of whanau in the room.*

## GOOD WORKS

*Good Works is Fulbright NZ's alumni seminar series where we showcase the good work of our alumni in monthly seminars. You can view all the seminars we've had so far on our Youtube page. If you are a Fulbright alumni and want to share your exciting research, get in touch!*

Contact [alumni@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:alumni@fulbright.org.nz) for more information.







## HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

*Margot Fraser-Jones has been settling in brilliantly since she took over the role of Corporate Services Manager earlier in the year. Great to have you on board Margot!*



*Leah Dodd is the new Executive and Corporate Services Administrator and she joined the team in May. Leah recently completed her Masters in Creative Writing at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University. Welcome Leah!*



*In June we said farewell to Events, Alumni and Communications Advisor extraordinaire, Sarita Magan. Sarita was with Fulbright for four and a half years and during that time has overseen and organised all our key events including Orientation, Outreach, Awards Ceremony, end of year and mid-year programmes and so much more! We all miss her terribly but we're excited to see what amazing things she'll do next!*



*Communications Manager Therese Lloyd leaves us in September to take up a role at Creative New Zealand. She has had many highlights during her time at Fulbright but she has particularly loved putting together these issues of Bright Sparks and facilitating the Good Works Alumni Seminar Series. Go well Therese!*



*Magnolia Wilson joined the Fulbright NZ team back in 2014 as Programme Manager and will soon be heading off to take up a new role at the Ministry of Education. Over the time she has been at Fulbright she has welcomed hundreds of American Fulbrighters into Aotearoa and looked after dozens of Fulbright NZ Scholars and Distinguished Teachers. On top of all that, she and her partner have also welcomed two beautiful humans into the world, Delphi (aged 5), and Walter (aged 9 months).*

### WANT TO JOIN US?

EMAIL [ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ](mailto:ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ)

We always welcome those in the neighbourhood to drop by and join us for a morning cuppa and the Dom Post quiz. Drop us an email at [alumni@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:alumni@fulbright.org.nz) if you plan on stopping by and we'll make sure there's enough coffee in the pot.



# KNOW A FUTURE FULBRIGHTER?

Fulbright New Zealand offers a range of exchange awards for New Zealand and United States citizens wanting to study, research, teach or present their work in each other's country. We love for our alumni and contacts to share their experiences, and spread the word about our programme to potential applicants.

## AWARD TYPE

Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards  
Fulbright Science & Innovation Graduate Awards  
Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award  
Fulbright Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers Residency Award  
Fulbright Specialist Awards  
Fulbright US Scholar Awards  
Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Awards  
Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Scholar Award  
Fulbright US Graduate Awards  
Fulbright-Scholar in Residence Program  
Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for US Teachers  
Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for NZ Teachers  
John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

1 August annually  
1 August annually  
1 August annually  
1 March annually  
1 August and 1 April annually  
16 September annually  
1 October annually  
1 October annually  
9 October annually  
14 October annually  
20 January annually  
15 March annually  
By appointment only

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