



BRUCE STOWELL WORK EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP

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We want YOU. Are you passionate about your personal and career development?

Do you enjoy learning new skills, networking and sharing knowledge with others? Does the idea of travelling through France, Italy,

Japan or Korea get you excited? We've got some good news...

Applications for the 2019 Bruce Stowell Work Exchange Scholarship are officially open!

We're on the hunt for a future industry leader who's interested in taking their career to the next level as part of Zespri's renowned work exchange programme.

It's open to anyone working in the kiwifruit industry, so whether you're based on an orchard or in post-harvest, this is your exclusive opportunity to represent Aotearoa

and immerse yourself in another culture while enjoying an incredible overseas adventure.



The details

The Bruce Stowell Work Exchange Scholarship was established to recognise the value of relationship building and knowledge sharing in the global kiwifruit community.

The objective of the exchange is two people, from different countries, working together to achieve similar goals. The timeframe of the exchange will depend on the mutual focus of the participants.

Since 2009, we've managed a number of successful exchanges where Kiwis and participants from our offshore growing regions have visited each others countries and enjoyed valuable career development and networking opportunities.

Aside from learning about growing kiwifruit in different

locations, you'll also see how the Global Supply side of our business works, meet inspiring people, get stuck into challenging and rewarding work and engage with other cultures, ideas and ways of life.

Past recipients have been blown away by their experiences overseas, with many strong, enduring relationships with the growing Zespri global family being formed as a result of the exchange (but don't just take our word for it - see Miguel and Geraldine's stories on page 3).



How it works

Next year, an offshore-based applicant (from France, Italy, Japan or Korea) will be invited to come to New Zealand for up to two months.

A Kiwi applicant (you!) will then reciprocate - with the support of your employer, you'll pack your bags and jump on a plane to spend one or two months abroad, working in a similar role to your own. The scholarship isn't a directly funded initiative; it's a facilitated exchange of two successful applicants under the guidance of Zespri. What this means is, we'll provide flights, some ground transfers and an induction process, but all other expenses will be your (or your employer's) responsibility.

You (or your employer) will also need to be able to provide accommodation for your overseas guest when they come to live and work with you in New Zealand.



Bruce Stowell – a true kiwifruit legend

The exchange programme honours the life and work of Bruce Stowell – an industry legend who was involved with the pioneering growers of the Hort16A variety in Italy.

Bruce was the Te Puke Research Centre Manager when Hort16A was first commercialised in Italy. As part of a joint-funded position with Zespri, Bruce took his family to the home of pizza and pasta where he was instrumental in the success of our Italian operation. He had practical and scientific knowledge, but he also had a knack for building a great rapport with people from all walks of life. Bruce developed strong relationships with foreign growers and

placed great importance on collaboration, open-mindedness and innovation.

Bruce passed away in 2002, but we're proud to continue his work and keep his legacy alive with a number of Zespri staff in various global kiwifruit growing locations. The Bruce Stowell Work Exchange Scholarship is an incredible opportunity to add value to the global Zespri system and offers an enormous boost to the lucky recipient's career – just the way Bruce would've wanted it.



The exchange programme honours the life and work of Bruce Stowell.



Interested? See if you meet the criteria

To ensure the exchange programme is successful, we carefully and fairly consider all applications using the following criteria:



Suitability to match with a reciprocal applicant's focus and goals



The applicant's ability to transfer knowledge of the experience appropriately



The applicant's commitment to the kiwifruit industry to date, and intended commitment in the future



Any other matters considered relevant by Zespri e.g. foreign visa eligibility.

For more information on the above criteria, please contact scholarships@zespri.com.



Meet the criteria?

Great! Here's what else you need to consider:



What kind of work you'd be interested in doing during the exchange (on orchard or post-harvest)



What your goals of participating would be



When you'd be able to travel



What kind of accommodation and work you could offer your exchange partner here in New Zealand



And finally - the most exciting part - what countries you'd wish to work in (France, Italy, Japan or Korea).

Meet some of our past participants

Miguel Peterle

Cambridge kiwifruit grower and Whitehall Fruitpackers' production manager Miguel Peterle travelled to France and Italy in early 2016. He spent five weeks working on kiwifruit orchards and recalls his time abroad as "a life experience like no other – I loved every minute of it and I'd do it every year if I could!"

Miguel was based in the south of France, working on a large orchard that grew 80 hectares of apples and 16 hectares of kiwifruit. Because French growers are highly competitive, Miguel jumped at the opportunity to introduce the Kiwi notion of growers learning from each other.

"We set up several field days and lots of growers would come to listen to what this young guy from New Zealand had to say about growing kiwifruit. I felt like a mini celebrity - they see New Zealand as gods of kiwifruit growing. The reputation we have over there is incredible."

Miguel was paired with Frenchman Nicola. "He was very open minded and we'd have daily conversations about horticultural practices and new ways to improve and innovate. We still talk all the time, exchanging notes and ideas – Nicola became a very close friend."

Between travelling through beautiful places and enjoying local food, arts and culture, Miguel spent time at a number of different orchards and packhouses. He also got the chance to meet Zespri staff and growers in France and Italy, which he says presented an extremely valuable networking opportunity.

"The hospitality I received was amazing, and the opportunities for personal as well as professional growth were immeasurable," he says. "The exchange truly allowed me to step up and earn recognition for my knowledge and experience - anyone thinking about applying should most definitely fight for a spot!"



Miguel Peterle (second from the left) on orchard in France with his exchange partner Nicola to his right and other French growers.



Daniel Tapie, a top grafter in southern France, shows Miguel some new grafting techniques.



Some challenging conditions in France.

Geraldine Sueres

In 2017, Geraldine Sueres packed her bags and flew from France to Aotearoa, excited by the prospect of learning how 'Kiwis do kiwifruit business'.

Geraldine works for Blue Whale (a post-harvest provider in Montauban France, established in 1950) and SunGold was a particular area of interest, so she was a perfect fit for Punchbowl in Pukekohe where she saw firsthand how kiwifruit is grown, harvest is managed and packhouses organised in New Zealand.

For six weeks, Geraldine combined work with adventure and enjoyed lasting memories

of our country. She loved our laidback lifestyle, serene landscapes, Māori culture and the generosity of our experienced kiwifruit growers.



Geraldine enjoying some Kiwi sun as she visits SunGold orchards in Auckland and the Bay of Plenty.



Geraldine visiting the Zespri office for meetings with key staff.



Are you the next industry leader? Apply now!



1. Review the exchange programme guidelines to see if you're eligible. Visit www.zespri.com/pages/BruceStowell.aspx.



3. Fill out and submit your application form (send back to scholarships@zespri.com).



2. Email scholarships@zespri.com for an application form.



4. Ensure you've got a valid passport, brush up on your foreign languages and pack your bags!



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