

Masters scholarship for the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society's Force of Nature Centennial History Project (2020)

The Force of Nature Masters Scholarship is a one-off scholarship to give a graduate student an opportunity to contribute to the centennial history of Forest & Bird. The student will enrol for a research-only Masters in [The Centre for Science in Society](#), Victoria University of Wellington, working under [Associate Professor James Beattie](#).

Forest & Bird is New Zealand's largest and oldest independent conservation organisation. It is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2023 by publishing a history book and accompanying environmental history website. It will examine at some of the major environmental campaigns the past century, the people who led them, and the wild places and native species saved as a result.

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of the one-off scholarship is to encourage study and research towards Forest & Bird's centennial history.

2. Eligibility

2.1. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and have completed an undergraduate degree, preferably with Honours.

2.2 Preference will be given to students with a background degree in history and areas related to this discipline, such as geography or environmental sciences.

3. Value

3.1. The Scholarship shall have a value of up to \$2,000 and will be paid directly to the student as a lump sum cash payment in two parts, half at the start of the degree and half at the completion of the degree. The successful candidate will also receive a free one-year adult membership to Forest & Bird.

4. Application

4.1. The closing date for applications is **01 August 2020**.

4.2. As part of the application process, each candidate must:

a) Complete and upload the prescribed Personal Statement form that includes (but is not limited to) the following subheadings:

- Background degree
- Interest in conservation
- Intended uses for funding – if successful

b) Upload proof of New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency;

c) Request the submission of two written academic references; and

d) Upload verified copies of academic transcripts (including the grading scale(s)) from any tertiary institution(s) attended.

Applications may be emailed to: Associate Professor James Beattie james.beattie@vuw.ac.nz.

5. Selection

5.1. The award of the Scholarship shall be made by a committee established by Forest & Bird.

5.2. The Selection Panel may refrain from making a recommendation if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.

5.3. The Selection Panel's decisions are final; no correspondence will be entered into following the selection meeting.

6. Awarding

6.1. The offer of a scholarship must be accepted by the date indicated in the letter of offer. If any candidate declines a scholarship, or does not take it up, the offer shall lapse.

6.2. The Scholarship is tenable at The Centre for Science in Society, Victoria University of Wellington.

6.3. The Scholarship has a maximum tenure of one year and must be taken up in the year for which it is offered.

7. Other conditions

7.1. The Scholarship may be held together with any scholarship, award or prize unless the conditions of the award preclude this.

7.2. The Forest & Bird Selection Committee may terminate this scholarship at any time, and recoup any funds disbursed, if the holder withdraws from Victoria University of Wellington, brings the Scholarship or the University into disrepute, or is otherwise not complying with the conditions governing the Scholarship and/or the regulations of Victoria University of Wellington.

7.3. By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees to participate in any publicity concerning the Scholarship arranged by Forest & Bird and Victoria University of Wellington. The recipient may be asked to attend a presentation ceremony.

7.4 By accepting the Scholarship, the recipient agrees that any work produced during the Masters can be used, with acknowledgement, in the official history of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc. It is also anticipated that the recipient will produce a publication, ideally a refereed co-written article with Professor Beattie, based on research conducted for the Masters.

***If you have any questions or would like to see a list of possible research topics, contact Associate Professor James Beattie james.beattie@vuw.ac.nz or Caroline Wood, Force of Nature Project Manager c.wood@forestandbird.org.nz.**