

The New Zealand Centre for Precision Agriculture (NZCPA), Institute of Agriculture and Environment, Massey University, has two exciting PhD Scholarship opportunities available. These scholarships are associated with the Primary Growth Partnership Project, “ **Pioneering to Precision: Application of Fertiliser in Hill Country**” funded by Ravensdown Fertiliser Cooperative and Ministry of Primary Industries, (MPI).

These are generous scholarships which will support full time study and student fees. The scholarships are for three years with a start date of January 2015. These scholarships are funded through the Primary Growth Partnership project.

The PhD research topics are:

Scholarship 1: Soil Water Modelling in Hill Country

Objective: Develop a GIS based decision support system capable of modelling and predicting available soil moisture for pasture growth in New Zealand’s hill country.

The GIS will ultimately be situated within the Sponsor’s IT system and must be fit for purpose for users with farm and nutrient management experience rather than GIS experience.

Scholarship 2: Translating Hyperspectral data to farmer useful information

Objective: Develop a workflow model and analysis pathway to transform hyperspectral image data to farmer useful information.

The developed system will ultimately be situated within the Sponsor’s IT system and must be fit for purpose for users with farm and nutrient management experience rather than GIS experience.

Applications are invited from candidates who have achieved a Master’s or undergraduate degree (minimum 2:1 Honors) in a relevant subject area. Candidates should have good communication skills, a proven ability to work as part of a research team to meet objectives, and the initiative and drive to complete their studies in three years.

**Applications close on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014.**

The scholarships will start in January 2015. For further details and to register interest please contact Kate Saxton: [k.r.saxton@massey.ac.nz](mailto:k.r.saxton@massey.ac.nz)