

NATURAL SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

FORESTRY SET TO GROW

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Three years into a Bachelor of Forestry Science at the University of Canterbury, **ROBYN PATIENT** is a passionate advocate for a career in forestry.

"Forestry is such an exciting industry because there's so much growth yet to come," says the 20-year-old. "There are a lot of opportunities that have been presented for innovation and development in the future."

Growing up at Waikuku Beach, a small coastal community in Canterbury, a career in forestry seemed like the perfect opportunity for Robyn to combine her love of natural science with a rural lifestyle.

"The multitude of scholarships available and impressive, diverse job prospects for graduates" were additional drawcards.

In what she describes as a "really broad" degree, covering biology, chemistry, economics, land management and civil engineering, Robyn has learnt how to perform statistical analyses and use models to answer questions about forest management.

"I have particularly enjoyed learning about soil properties and wood properties on a cellular level, how to utilise GIS software and the government's climate change and afforestation schemes."

In her final year at Kaiapoi High School, Robyn took Chemistry, Biology, History, English and Geography – all subjects that have proven useful.

"Chemistry gave me an advantage in my courses because I had a good basic understanding of organic chemistry. Additionally, in Biology it was very useful understanding topics such as cellular respiration, photosynthesis and genetic inheritance.

"History taught me useful skills like how to find credible sources and how to structure my academic writings in an effective and concise manner."

Physics would have been helpful "to get a grasp of some of the basic concepts that I use today".

In the future, Robyn is keen to participate in conversations around kaitiakitanga and the effects of land management practices on ecosystems.

She is passionate about using research and innovation to influence positive changes in the forestry industry and New Zealand landscapes.

"I would love to help develop the foundations for a greater diversification of New Zealand's forests," she says.

"Work involving the environmental and cultural services of forests for tangata whenua is also of interest to me."

Robyn is a recipient of the Ngā Karahihi Uru Rākau – Forestry Scholarships, created by Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service to encourage participation



in tertiary-level study, specifically the Diploma in Forest Management through Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, the Bachelor of Forestry Science at the University of Canterbury, and the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in forest engineering at the University of Canterbury.

"This scholarship programme was created particularly for Māori and those who identify as female, who are underrepresented in the technical and management roles in forestry," explains Robyn. The scholarship scheme also provides internship placements, which have provided Robyn with valuable work experience and industry connections over two summers.



KEY FACTS



- **ROBYN PATIENT** IS COMPLETING A **BACHELOR OF FORESTRY SCIENCE** AT THE **UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY**.
- SHE WAS **AWARDED A NGĀ KARAHIPHI URU RĀKAU – FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIP**, WHICH WAS **CREATED TO ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF MĀORI AND THOSE WHO IDENTIFY AS FEMALE** IN TERTIARY-LEVEL STUDY.
- **ROBYN** ALSO SECURED **INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS** THAT PROVIDED HER WITH **VALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE AND INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS**.



For more information on careers in the forestry industry, visit www.forestrycareers.nz and www.nzfoa.org.nz

For more information on the **Ngā Karahihi Uru Rākau – Forestry Scholarships**, refer to www.mpi.govt.nz/forestryscholarships