



Antarctica New Zealand

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18 May 2016

2016 Antarctic Postgraduate Scholarships - Biographies



Natalie Pilcher

Natalie's diverse interests led her to complete LLB and BSc (Ecology) degrees at Victoria University of Wellington in 2007 and a Graduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies from the University of Canterbury in 2008. In 2015, Natalie returned to the University of Canterbury to complete a PGDipSc (Zoology) with distinction. This year Natalie will begin an MSc (Environmental Science). Natalie will use Adélie and Emperor penguin feathers to assess mercury contamination in relation to their respective positions in the food web, over time, between age groups, sex and species, and between two spatially distinct colonies in the Ross Sea region.



Alena Malyarenko

Alena is a PhD student at University of Otago and NIWA in Wellington. Alena is working on Interannual Ocean Variability in the Ross Sea region, where she will use a combination of oceanography data collected by Weddell Seals and mooring data from under the Ross Ice Shelf and in the McMurdo Sound region. Alena completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees in the Moscow State University, Russia in Hydrometeorology with a specialisation in Physical Oceanography. Alena's Masters research focussed on interannual and seasonal variability in the Arctic Ocean using observations and models.



Rebecca Parker

Rebecca graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Geology and Geography from University of Otago in 2014, and is currently in her final year of a Masters of Science degree majoring in Geology. Rebecca is investigating climate change using marine sediment cores in the Ross Sea region. Observations of the natural world, such as the retreat of the Franz Josef Glacier has motivated Rebecca to pursue climate change research. By reconstructing high frequency fluctuations in climate in our most recent past (12,000 years), she will contribute valuable insight into how changes within the climate system will operate in the near future. Rebecca has travelled to Antarctica as a researcher on board a Korean Polar

Research Institute icebreaker, and has been awarded two Polar Environment Research Theme summer studentships, a Trans-Antarctic Association Grant and a University of Otago Masters Scholarship.



Ekkehard Scheffler

Ekkehard grew up in the East German city of Dresden. After leaving school he undertook a three-year training programme in office management. During that time Ekkehard worked as a business administrator in his father's family business. It wasn't until Ekkehard travelled half way around the world on his bicycle that he discovered his passion for earth science. Ekkehard became fascinated with the world's diverse landscapes and cultures, so much that he wanted to learn more! In 2010, Ekkehard graduated from Dresden University of Technology with a Bachelor's degree in Geography. Ekkehard came to New Zealand on a one-year scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies in glaciology and remote sensing at the University of Canterbury. After taking the

unique opportunity to assist in Christchurch's rebuild over the past four years, Ekkehard is excited to return to university to study Antarctica's glaciers.



Marcus Arnold

Growing up on the Gold Coast, a career in Antarctic Science hardly seems like the likely choice, but for Master's candidate Marcus Arnold, becoming a polar glaciologist was always his vision. After completing his Bachelor of Science, Marcus joined the 2014/15 Postgraduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies (PCAS) course, ultimately leading to a Master's degree in Antarctic Studies at the University of Canterbury. Marcus' research will focus on snowfall distribution and quantity over a discrete area on the Ross Ice Shelf using ice core and radar data collected in the 2015/16 field season. Marcus' research aims to fill a gap in our knowledge about the Ross Ice Shelf, helping to understand the processes that govern its stability, ultimately leading to better predictions of its future behaviour in a changing climate. Having been to Antarctica twice during his postgraduate

studies, Marcus feels highly privileged and is extremely grateful for the support that he has received. Marcus looks forward to future involvement with Antarctica New Zealand and NZARI, and is excited about contributing his knowledge about such a fascinating place.