



Global Research Alliance Senior Scientist (GRASS) Award

Supporting research in
Agricultural Greenhouse Gases

LEARN and the Global Research Alliance

In November of 2007, New Zealand established an international research network entitled the 'Livestock Emissions & Abatement Research Network' (LEARN). It is an international research network focused upon improving the understanding of greenhouse gas emissions from livestock agriculture. The formation of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (the Alliance) in December 2009 further boosts the opportunities for research collaboration, information sharing, and facilitation of discussion and face to face contact with researchers around the world.

In line with its vision for LEARN and the Alliance, the New Zealand Government is facilitating the exchange of knowledge between researchers in New Zealand and researchers in Alliance member countries¹ through the provision of funding for New Zealand researchers to travel overseas or overseas researchers from Alliance member countries to travel to New Zealand to work on joint research projects.

The Global Research Alliance Senior Scientist (GRASS) Award will support living and travel related costs to undertake research to improve quantification of non-CO₂ greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from animal agriculture at all scales and facilitate the development of cost effective and practical GHG mitigation solutions. The Awards are administered by the NZAGRC on behalf of the New Zealand Government. The programme will not support conference, seminar or workshop attendance, unless this is clearly linked with an existing substantial collaborative research or technology project, nor will activities where the principal activity is teaching or study be supported.

¹ See www.globalresearchalliance.org for a list of current Alliance members



Purpose of the GRASS Awards

The GRASS Award will provide funds for extended exchanges between New Zealand scientists and scientists from other Alliance member countries in accordance with a core set of objectives derived from the Alliance's Joint Ministerial Statement and New Zealand-specific strategic research needs².

The Awards seek to:

- Attract and support strategic research and capacity building activities that align with the priorities of the Alliance as well as any relevant New Zealand national research strategies (e.g. the science plan of the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC)).
- Develop international opportunities and utilise advances in the application of novel techniques and approaches for agricultural GHG emissions mitigation that is of benefit to New Zealand and other Alliance countries.
- Aid the transfer of knowledge on agricultural GHG emissions measurement, modelling and mitigation technologies and practices that assist agriculture to reduce GHG emissions and increase the efficiency of agricultural production systems.
- Advance common research interests, and the initiation of promising research programmes and tools to increase the level of funding, scientific skills, technology capabilities that New Zealand and other Alliance countries are able to benefit from.

The Awards are designed to support extended exchanges of scientists; the Awards DO NOT support conference visits or short-term stays of less than 6 weeks duration.

Eligibility requirements³

The GRASS Awards are open to scientists from all Alliance member countries⁴. The Award will fund a New Zealand scientist to travel and live/work in an Alliance member country OR a scientist from an Alliance member country to travel and live/work in New Zealand to collaborate on a research project in the field of agricultural GHG mitigation for up to 6 months.

To be eligible, you must:

- Have a PhD or be a scientist with at least 5 years experience participating in/leading major projects that align to the priorities of LEARN, the Alliance or other relevant national strategies.
- Demonstrate impact and leadership in your professional field.
- Be able to contribute to scientific research and its application in your home region and the larger Alliance network, based on your networking record.

² See the separate document New Zealand funding objectives.

³ MAF reserves the right to review the eligibility requirements at any time and in exceptional circumstances award fellowships to applicants who do not meet all the requirements.

⁴ See www.globalresearchalliance.org for a list of current Alliance members



- Work in collaboration with a New Zealand research organisation.
- Be resident and normally employed on a permanent contract by a research organisation in an Alliance member country.
- Be fluent in English.

Funding

The exchange must be between 6 weeks and 6 months duration and be completed within one year of the GRASS Award having been granted.

- Up to \$30,000 for 6 months (pro rata for less than 6 months) will be provided to recipients to cover actual and reasonable living expenses.
- Up to \$5,000 will be provided for economy airfares and travel/medical insurance.
- Up to \$5,000 will be awarded for associated research costs.

All funds will be made available subject to a budget being completed and submitted with evidence and details of costs as estimated at the time of application. All funds will be administered through the New Zealand research institution collaborating in the application process.

Once an award has been granted, it will be the responsibility of the recipient to make all necessary arrangements for travel, accommodation, insurance and any other logistical requirements.

How to Apply

Download the application form and budget sheet from the [LEARN](#), [Global Research Alliance](#) or [NZAGRC](#) websites.

A two stage process applies.

Stage One

An Expression of Interest (EoI) form must be completed and submitted to the NZAGRC Centre Operations Manager to determine eligibility. A full application will be invited to be completed when the candidate is advised to do so.

Stage Two

Once the NZAGRC Centre Operations Manager has confirmed eligibility, the candidate will be invited to submit a full application. The full application process is as follows:

1. **Develop** a research proposal in close collaboration with a New Zealand research organisation. Complete a budget with all supporting evidence of associated costs.
2. **Complete** relevant sections of the application form in English.
3. **Sign** and date the declaration.
4. **Attach** any supporting documents as stipulated on the application form.



5. **Send** completed application documents to the New Zealand organisation participating in this exchange (for New Zealand scientists wishing to go overseas, this is normally the organisation that employs them; for overseas scientists wishing to come to New Zealand, this is the organisation where they would be based while in New Zealand)
6. **Submit** the application through the New Zealand organisation with all supporting documentation to the Centre Operations Manager at the NZAGRC. Applications made directly by individuals will not be accepted.

Criteria used to assess full applications

Applications will be reviewed by an advisory panel appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The advisory panel will consist of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Science and Innovation, New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre, and two independent New Zealand scientists. The advisory panel will consider the following:

- The strategic advantage of the proposed exchange for New Zealand.
- Alignment of the proposed research project, capacity building initiative to the scientific priorities of the Alliance and other relevant New Zealand national science priorities.
- Outcomes of the exchange, the expected advance in knowledge and the benefit to New Zealand and the Global Research Alliance.
- The establishment of new, rather than existing linkages. If not a new linkage, please provide details of why the application should be supported but cannot be supported out of existing funding.
- Evidence of co-funding from supporting research organisations, and signed statements from those organisations to indicate that they support the proposed exchange.
- The record of research excellence of the applicant and principal participants in the exchange in the chosen field of study, supported by letters of reference and publishing record.

In recognition of the different project types that might be carried out under the Awards, the above criteria will not be applied with fixed weights, but the assessment panel will consider each of the above criteria to achieve a balanced consideration in the context specific to each application.

The Awards are administered by the NZAGRC on behalf of the New Zealand Government.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Terms and Conditions of the GRASS Award

The following terms and conditions apply to all Award holders:

- Candidates must complete an EoI and submit to the NZAGRC Centre Operations Manager. A full application must not be completed unless the Candidate is advised to do so.

- Full application forms are to be completed in close consultation with the participating New Zealand and overseas research organisations and submitted to the NZAGRC Centre Operations Manager by the New Zealand organisation. Individuals may not apply directly or through other routes.
- Applications need to list all financial or in-kind support from participating institutions relevant to the recipients proposed activities and provide estimates of the costs of living that the award is requested to cover.
- Transfer of funds will be made to the participating New Zealand organisation, subject to an invoice from the New Zealand organisation once the candidate has accepted the award and confirmation has been received of their arrival in their host country. Transfer of funds may be made in instalments for exchanges lasting more than two months.
- Award funds must be used only as outlined in the accepted application.
- Recipients are required to provide an activity report to NZAGRC within one month of their return to their home institution on the outcomes of the exchange. The report template is available from the [LEARN](#), [Global Research Alliance](#) or [NZAGRC](#) website. The completed report will be published on the Alliance website.
- International travel will only be funded between New Zealand and the country in which the exchange will be spent (or vice versa for international scientists)
- Recipients are responsible for securing an appropriate entry visa to the host country and for any fees associated with visas, including a medical examination. The offer of funding does not guarantee that such a visa will be granted.
- Recipients must:
 - Not simultaneously hold other fellowships or scholarships.
 - Follow the rules and regulations of their host organisation.
 - Undergo a full medical examination if required.
 - Undertake to return to their country of residency for at least 12 months after completion of the exchange.
 - Not apply for permanent residency or citizenship in their host country during the tenure of their exchange.
- An award shall lapse in the event that a person to whom an award has been made fails to arrive in their host country at the agreed date unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- All recipients of funding will be expected to have some funds at their disposal to cover initial living allowances for their first month in post.
- Award holders and participating organisations shall comply with the Terms and Conditions of the award.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information or clarification about the Global Research Alliance Senior Scientist Award visit the following websites:

LEARN www.livestockemissions.net

Global Research Alliance: [Global Research Alliance](#)

The New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre: www.nzagrc.org.nz



CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATORS



New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre

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