

# Queen Elizabeth II TECHNICIANS' STUDY AWARDS for 2027

## INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

### The Origin and Purpose of the Award

Following the visit of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to New Zealand in 1970, the Queen Elizabeth the Second Technicians Study Award Act 1970 (the Act) was enacted. This Act established the Queen Elizabeth the Second Technicians Study Award (the Award) to encourage and promote the pursuance of full-time study by technicians, with the aim that all people of New Zealand may benefit.

### Study Opportunities for Award Recipients

The Award enables recipients to undertake full-time study at a university, college, technological institute, or any other institution offering higher education or advanced technical education. Study may take place in New Zealand or any other country within the Commonwealth. Eligible disciplines include engineering, science, health, building, quantity surveying, commerce, management, design, agriculture, dairy technology, forestry, mining, technologies related to tourism, or any other discipline.

### Assessment and Selection Process

Applications for the Award are assessed by a Selection Panel, which includes representatives from the New Zealand Polytechnic sector, the New Zealand Vice Chancellors' Committee, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, and the Ministry for Primary Industries. The Selection Panel reviews all applications and provides final recommendations to the Minister of Education.

### Amount of Individual Awards

The amount provided as a cash grant may vary depending on the duration of the course of study or training programme and its location as well as other factors.

### Timetable

Applications for the 2027 round must be submitted by post or email, with a postmark or timestamp no later than **Monday 7 September 2026**. All awards are contingent on final approval from the Minister of Tertiary Education. Successful applicants are expected to commence their award programme in 2027. In special circumstances, the Selection Panel may consider exceptions, allowing for the award to be taken up within a period of up to two years.

### Definition of Technician

For the purpose of these awards, the term "technician" is defined in a broad sense. A technician is a trained individual who is both qualified and recognised as a technician or technologist within their specific discipline. This recognition must be supported by active experience in the relevant field, with a minimum requirement of at least three years of professional work.

Technicians can encompass tradespeople working in various sectors. Applicants should clearly state their job title and, where necessary, provide a detailed description of their duties and responsibilities. This ensures that the Selection Panel can accurately assess the applicant's eligibility and the relevance of their experience to the awarded discipline.

Technicians can be employed in many areas, for example:

- agricultural research and technology
- health sciences
- science (including chemistry, physics, biology and the various branches of agricultural sciences)
- engineering (including civil, chemical, metallurgical, nuclear, mechanical, automotive, aeronautical, electrical, electronic and other)
- building and construction
- architectural technology
- computer applications and graphics
- surveying, town planning and environmental services
- fishing and marine biology
- child health, special education
- police work , and
- the arts including print making, film production and photography.

Prospective applicants should not be deterred from applying because their work is not specifically covered above. If unsure, contact the Administrator.

### **Assessment and Award Recommendations**

The Selection Panel is responsible for evaluating all applications and making recommendations for awards to the Minister of Tertiary Education. In their assessment, the Panel considers various expenses associated with the proposed course of study, such as tuition fees, the cost of books and materials, other relevant fees, and travel expenses. For overseas study, travel is recognised as a significant cost, and the Act allows the Committee to make contributions towards these expenses.

### **Eligible Study and Experience**

Awards may only be granted for study undertaken in a Commonwealth country, which includes New Zealand. Typically, these awards are not intended for individuals who are currently engaged in full-time study. Applicants are expected to have gained a substantial amount of relevant work experience following the completion of their current qualifications.

### **Types of Training Supported**

For guidance on the types of training and study supported, applicants should refer to Appendix A of this document, which provides descriptions of recent awards and studies undertaken. The Committee does not support proposals focused solely on attending conferences.

### **"Partnership" Approach**

The Selection Panel views its relationship with the award recipient and the recipient's employer as a partnership. This collaborative approach facilitates study or training opportunities that may not otherwise be available. Since the knowledge and training gained become part of the recipient's personal skill set, the Panel expects recipients to contribute towards the cost of their study.

Employers also benefit from the recipient's enhanced skills. As such, the Selection Panel expects employers to support the award in some form. Many employers recognise the importance of supporting professional development, and while levels of support during study leave can vary, the Panel generally looks for evidence of such backing, whether at full or reduced pay.

Applicants are allowed to submit their proposals even if they have not yet secured financial support from their employer. Frequently, a conditional financial offer from the QEII Technicians' Study Awards can help applicants obtain support from their employer.

## Reporting Requirements

Recipients of the award are required to provide a brief report to the Administrator of the QEII Technicians' Study Awards upon completion of their award. This report should outline the training undertaken and the benefits obtained. The document will be made available for media release and publication, as indicated in the declaration.

## Preference Criteria

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- wish to study outside New Zealand due to the unavailability of comparable courses domestically;
- are New Zealand citizens or permanent resident visa holders under the Immigration Act 2009 and possess a suitable initial qualification in their field; and
- will ensure that the knowledge and training gained benefit the wider professional community, thereby contributing to New Zealand as a whole rather than just an individual or a single organisation.

## Application Process

Applications for the 2026 awards must be submitted by email no later than **Monday 7 September 2026**, or if sent by mail, postmarked by that date. The Selection Panel will convene after all referee reports have been received. Recipients of the 2027 awards will be announced by the Minister for Education before the end of 2026.

The Queen Elizabeth II Technicians' Study Awards are managed under contract to the Ministry of Education. Address all correspondence including requests for further information, application forms and send the completed application form to:

**The Administrator  
QEII Technicians' Study Awards  
773 Moonshine Road  
R D 1, PORIRUA, 5381**

Phone: **027 411 4710**

Email: **aj@hutsen.net.nz** (*forms available as an email attachment*)

Website: **<https://workforce.education.govt.nz/queen-elizabeth-ii-technicians-study-award>**

*Please note that application forms attached in an email to the Administrator are acceptable, or post your application.*

**Applications must be postmarked or received by email no later than Monday 7 September 2026**

## APPENDIX A

**Recent Awards supported by the QEII Award.**

Description of Study	Country
<i>advanced training in documentary and science cinematography</i>	Canada
<i>training in fish vaccine research</i>	Australia
<i>complete a Field Skills Certificate in fisheries</i>	Canada
<i>study polychaetes</i>	Australia
<i>training in salinity measurement</i>	UK
<i>investigate greenhouse technology and facilities</i>	Australia
<i>training in drone mounted telemetry for wildlife monitoring</i>	Australia
<i>study the monitoring of soil diversity</i>	Australia
<i>study wild life forensics in biosecurity</i>	South Africa
<i>train for operating ROV for underwater use</i>	Canada
<i>train in scallop rearing</i>	Canada
<i>field visits to three aquaculture operations in Tasmania</i>	Australia
<i>undertake AI training for hazard forecasting</i>	NZ
<i>advanced training in documentary and science cinematography</i>	Canada
<i>training in fish vaccine research</i>	Australia
study and compare bio-control agents	UK
study dairy cattle resting behaviour	UK
study molecular cytogenetics	UK
study advanced cereal breeding techniques	Canada
complete an MSc in plant pathology	NZ
train in DNA-based approaches to species identification and discovery	Canada
study luminescence techniques for geological dating	UK
study recombinant DNA technology	Australia
study small scale hydro-electric systems	Wales
study bovine interferon gamma diagnostics	Ireland
training in the analysis of rumen samples using metatranscriptomics	Canada
study metabolomic analysis	Australia
training in isotope ratio mass spectrometry	UK
study gastro-intestinal in vitro assay methodologies	Australia
undertake training in monitoring fungicide resistance in wheat pathogens	UK
training in fossil collection techniques	Canada
training in coral reef conservation	Niue Islands
Complete a post graduate diploma in science communication	NZ
study fresh water aquaculture breeding programmes	Australia
study estuarine sampling methodologies	UK