

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Wednesday 29 July 2015

University of Tasmania to welcome NW students on new agricultural scholarships

A new crop of agricultural science graduates will be sprouting at the University of Tasmania under a scholarship scheme funded by berry grower, Costa Group.

Under the scheme, from next year to 2020, the University will welcome four new students and four honours students from the North-West region of Tasmania.

Professor Janelle Allison, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Community, Partnerships and Regional Development), said the scholarships would pave the way for graduates in an academic field in which employment was almost assured.

“Projections are that the world faces massive unmet demand for food into the future,” Professor Allison said. “In response, the agricultural sector has rightly embraced a culture of innovation and research, in which higher aptitudes in science, technology, engineering and mathematics are core skills.

“The graduates from this program will emerge with outstanding career prospects, along with the capacity to drive the future of primary industries in Tasmania, or with a view to a future which is national or global in scope.”

“Educating our future leaders is a community responsibility and the University of Tasmania congratulates Costa for accepting this responsibility. This financial support will make a difference to individual lives and the lifeblood of North-West rural and regional communities.”

Each year over the next four years, one Year 12 graduate from the North-West will be supported during their four-year agriculture undergraduate degree, and one existing agricultural science graduate from the region will be supported to complete their honour’s degree.

The scholarships, which will be administered by the University of Tasmania Foundation, can be used at the discretion of the recipient for study and living costs.

Each scholarship is worth \$10,000 per year.

“This scheme goes some way to address two key issues for our region,” Professor Allison said. “Firstly, the critical need to remove blockages on the pathway to higher levels of educational attainment. Secondly, to give younger people incentive to consider a future in agriculture – jobs too often seen as basic, farm-based roles; a lifetime spent with mud on your boots.

“Nothing could be further from the truth.

“Jobs in modern agriculture are knowledge-based, are global in scope and our graduates find themselves at work in a myriad of circumstances, from production, through to corporate and finance and humanitarian work in third-world countries.

Applications for 2016 scholarships will be open from August 1, 2015. Visit www.scholarships.utas.edu.au and select ‘Apply for scholarships’.

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