

Do you have a recently qualified trades people who is keen, capable and eager to advance their career?

Now you can reward them with a short-term overseas training scholarship that has been especially designed to aid their professional development and benefit your business.

The New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation has restructured their long standing overseas training scholarships to help New Zealand employers train, retain and develop good staff with a short-term overseas training placement that will have them back at work in New Zealand in only four to eight weeks.

The newly restructured shorter intensive training programmes are all custom-designed to suit the specific requirements of the award-winner's New Zealand employers, and will normally work in conjunction with key international suppliers to their industry.

The New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation will provide each awardee winner with the travel and accommodation grant to enable them to train overseas for a period of four to eight weeks - and will work with the person's employer, if needed, to help them organise a suitable overseas itinerary.

The guidelines for the new short-term overseas training scholarships were initiated in October 2006 at the New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation's 40th Anniversary Forum. The Foundation recognised that the New Zealand business environment had changed and so had the needs of employers. The long-term overseas training placements for up to two-years that the Foundation had previously offered were now far too long for most employers, and it was getting increasingly difficult to obtain work visas for award winners in the UK and Europe. Previously the Foundation awarded 196 long-term overseas training scholarships. The Foundation decided to replace their long-term overseas training scholarship with a shorter one that was more in line with the needs of New Zealand employers.

New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation Chairman, Owen Embling, says, "the new shorter overseas training scholarships have been especially designed to assist employers to retain and look after their trades people in the most manageable way within the current work environment." Owen was the recipient of a New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation Overseas Training Scholarship himself, in 1984, and has first-hand understanding of how valuable they are.

He says, "One of our primary objectives is to help promising young people just starting out in their trade careers get international experience without having to leave their jobs in New Zealand. The experience, knowledge and ideas they gain will be taken back to their New Zealand employer and will ultimately add value to their business."

The New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation is now calling employers from around the country to put forward names of potential scholarship recipients to be considered for their next round of awards. Applications are open to II recently qualified trades people who meet the Training Award guidelines.



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