



National Meat Industry
Training Advisory Council Limited
MINTRAC Scholarship Program

F A M I L I E S S C H O L A R S H I P

Lisa Sierakowski

MINTRAC Families scholarship 2005-2006

Sponsor: G & K O'Connor

Qualification: Bachelor of Business/Commerce and communication

Tertiary Institution: Monash University

The Scholarship

Receiving the MINTRAC scholarship not only relieved the financial burden of studying, it enabled me the opportunity to gain valuable work experience within the meat industry at my sponsoring plant G & K O'Connor. In 2005 through the scholarship program I was invited to attend the MINTRAC scholarship workshop in Sydney. This workshop was a great experience as I had the opportunity to meet other scholarship holders and learnt very useful techniques on how to approach studying and produce high quality essays. Throughout my University degree at Monash I have received four top student awards in business subjects and I was also awarded with top student for the year 2005 for my business degree. Just recently I represented Australia in an 18-day tour around Japan. I was short listed by Monash University after an interview process and then selected to be an ambassador for Australia by Mitsui Australia. In Japan, we met the Ambassador of Australia and he told us how important the relationship really is between Australian and Japan, and he interestingly stated that over 50% of meat in Japan is imported by Australia.

The Qualification

I have just completed a four-year double degree - a Bachelor of Business/Commerce and a Bachelor of Communication. After discovering a great passion for people, I decided to shift my management major to the specialised field of Human Resource Management. From this scholarship I gained an insight into the roles that a Human Resource Manager undertakes within the meat industry, and this greater knowledge further added to what I was learning out of textbooks. In other words, I got the best of both worlds, the theoretical research and information from University and then a chance to see the theory be played out in practice.

Benefits for the meat industry

My studies are relevant to the meat industry as Human Resource Management is an integral function within the management of any company. The meat industry like many manufacturing industries has the unique challenge of managing the nature of the workforce, staff turnover rates, and the industries dependence on the climate and seasonality demands.

At present I do not have a full time job for 2007, however, I am looking out for any Human Resource position that aligns my skills, interests and career aspirations. I have been looking to the meat industry for employment, however, to date there has not been a suitable position available.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank MINTRAC for awarding me the scholarship and to thank my sponsoring plant G & K O'Connor for allowing me to gain valuable work experience.

Suggestions

My suggestion for improvement is that vacant jobs should be advertised through the MINTRAC website, to help scholarship holders who have completed their University degrees find a job within the meat industry.



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