



National Meat Industry
Training Advisory Council Limited
MINTRAC Scholarship Program

U N D E R G R A D U A T E S C H O L A R S H I P

Nicole Lees

MINTRAC Families/Undergraduate scholarship 2001–2005

Sponsor: H W Greenham and Sons

Qualification: Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Business

Tertiary Institution: University of Ballarat

The scholarship

Being accepted for the MINTRAC scholarship program eliminated the financial stress, leaving me with more time to focus on my studies. The scholarship made it possible for me to live away from home and study full time, as these opportunities are not offered in my rural hometown. The grant allowed me to purchase textbooks and covered what seemed to be never ending university fees!

The qualification

Throughout the course of my studies I have gained valuable life skills, confidence and direction. The knowledge and skills I have acquired are invaluable and will be a great base from which to work. After finishing high school I wasn't sure about what area of business interested me, but now I have grown passionate about international business and have decided that I want to specialise in Australia's trade relations with the Asia-Pacific, particularly Japan.

Value to the sponsor company

My education has helped me to understand the internal and external environments that my sponsoring company, H W Greenham and Sons, relates with. It resulted not only in better knowledge of the company, but also made me more helpful to have around. I became more confident and capable to confront any challenges that I encountered. My understanding of the company's motives and objectives increased my motivation levels and improved my work ethic. I found myself taking an active interest as to what opportunities and threats existed for not only the company but also the industry.

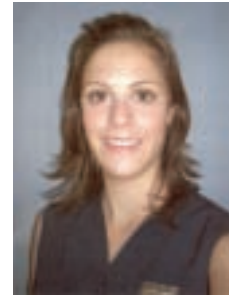
Benefits for the meat industry

My university degrees, teamed with my seven years of work experience in the meat industry have helped me to become an exceedingly beneficial worker in this industry. Considering the global nature of the meat industry, my specialisations in management, international studies, and business law will be a great asset. I have become somewhat knowledgeable about international relations, and have developed an understanding as to how it operates.

Exporting and importing produce such as meat has become of particular interest to me after working in the meat industry. I understand how to interact with neighbouring countries, specifically in the business environment. My knowledge of the Japanese language would also be a great asset to the industry. I believe that studies such as my own would keep the industry in tight competition with such industry players as Brazil.

The future

I am currently seeking work that aligns with my skills, knowledge and career aspirations. In the meantime I plan to increase my knowledge of Japan by relocating there in the next six months. I aim to make myself more valuable and therefore more employable, bettering myself so that I am successful in achieving my goals. I have been looking to the meat industry for employment; however there do not seem to be any current openings. Despite this I will continue to look for employment in the industry upon my return from Japan in order to utilise the experience and background knowledge I have gained.



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Suggestions

One suggestion that I could make regarding improvement of the scholarship program is to devote a section of the MINTRAC web site for employers to advertise positions vacant in their organisation. This will encourage scholarship holders to pursue a career in the industry and would assist both meat industry companies and prospective employees.



MINTRAC

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