

Information for Students

R&D Experience Grant

WHAT A STUDENT NEEDS TO KNOW

**What does
Callaghan
Innovation do?**

We are New Zealand's innovation agency.

We activate innovation and help businesses grow faster for a better New Zealand.

We partner with ambitious businesses of all sizes, providing a range of innovation and research and development (R&D) services to suit each stage of growth.

Our people – including more than 200 of New Zealand's leading scientists and engineers – empower innovators by connecting people, opportunities and networks, and providing tailored technical solutions, skills and capability development programmes, and grants co-funding.

We also enhance the operation of New Zealand's innovation ecosystem, working closely with government partners, Crown Research Institutes, and other organisations that help increase business investment in R&D and innovation. We operate across New Zealand from four urban offices and a regional partner network in a further 14 locations

**How can the grant
help me?**

R&D Experience Grants help students studying at NZQA Levels 6-10 gain commercial work experience in New Zealand R&D businesses by funding a 10-week full time internship over the student summer break.

How does it work?

Businesses can apply for an R&D Experience Grant usually between August and September annually and once they've been approved, can recruit a suitable student to support them in a business R&D project. The business employs and pays the student and Callaghan Innovation reimburses the business at the completion of the internship.

**Who is eligible
(student)?**

To be eligible for an R&D Experience grant internship, you must:

- Have studied or be studying at a New Zealand tertiary education institute (note: students who have completed study overseas are not eligible)
- Be studying at NZQA level 6-10, or if study has been completed, the closing date of your last semester should be less than 12 months ago.
- Be studying science, technology, engineering, design or business
- Be legally permitted to work in New Zealand.
- Not have been previously employed at the business unless part-time or temporary.
- Not undertaken more than two Experience Grant internships with the same business.

You will be required to provide evidence to the business that you meet the eligibility criteria.

*Students can have multiple R&D Experience internships over duration of their degree programme, but they can only undertake an internship with the same business twice.

How do I apply and let businesses know I'm interested?

Students apply directly to businesses. Business may advertise their positions through many channels. You may find internships through:

- [NZ Uni Talent](#)
- [AUT interNZ](#)
- [Industry Ready](#)
- [Summer of Tech](#)
- Job advertising sites such as LinkedIn, Seek and Trade Me, Student Job Search
- Tertiary institution research and enterprise/industry offices
- Encouraging businesses that you want to work for to apply for a grant.
- Searching our [Grants Recipient](#) tool to find businesses approved for grants this year.

What types of R&D businesses receive grants?

Some of New Zealand's most exciting high-tech companies are recipients of funding for R&D Student Grants. We encourage applications from businesses with active R&D programmes, which realise the value of interns in building their capability, and with expertise to supervise students and time to invest in their professional development.

What can I expect from the business?

The business should provide technical work relevant to your degree in a commercial R&D environment. They will have a professional development plan and a mentor to provide strong immersion in a positive R&D culture.

You must be paid at least the rate set annually by Callaghan Innovation, by the business for 400 hours of full-time work.

You must be employed by the business (on their payroll and not as a contractor). The business is responsible for all taxation liabilities, kiwi saver employer contributions, ACC levies and payment of annual leave (relevant to public and statutory holidays that fall within your 400 hours).

The earliest a business can hire you is the date the annual funding round opens as stated on our website, and you should finish the internship by 31 March the following year (Note: The start date can not be prior to the approval date, which is advised to the business)

You must be working on site with the business within New Zealand (and not at home or a university lab for example).

What other opportunities are available?

We continually update our student offerings. For information on our student grant programme, please see [our website here](#)
