

## INTERNSHIPS

# Scheme gives young scientists a leg up

Jo McKenzie-McLean  
jo.mclean@press.co.nz

Four budding Christchurch scientists are among the first to be offered internships to help support businesses affected by the earthquakes.

The Ministry of Science and Innovation is funding 341 internships nationwide – 130 in Canterbury – to do research and development projects for New Zealand businesses this summer.

Canterbury University students Dwayne Bennett,

Taylor Welsh, Jania Lynds and Samantha Bodman started their internships at Canterbury Health Laboratories yesterday.

The students' projects included natural Maori medicine, water quality in the Waimakariri River and multi-antibiotic resistant organisms after the February quake.

Bodman said the internship was a great opportunity to apply what she had learnt at university in a "real world" setting.

Bennett said the internships would be a "step forward in their careers".

"Employers always want someone with experience, but how do you get up that ladder to get that experience?"

"You need to start somewhere. This is a great foot in the door," he said.

Science and Innovation Minister Wayne Mapp said 200 internships were initially planned, but it was decided to offer an extra 140 places. "We have huge

demand from businesses. Some 130 of the 341 internships are in the Canterbury region, as part of the Government's support package for businesses affected by the earthquake," he said.

Funding for the annual programme was increased from \$1.28 million to \$2.4m and would allow some of the country's best scientific, engineering and technology students to be placed with innovative businesses, he said.



**Hands-on:**  
Canterbury Health Laboratories applied for four internships as part of the Ministry of Science and Innovation's programme. The interns are, from left, Dwayne Bennett, Jania Lynds, Taylor Welsh and Samantha Bodman.

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