



Centre for Sustainability
Kā Rakahau o Te Ao Tūroa



Call for applications for Masters scholarship

Variability in PV uptake in New Zealand

GREEN Grid Research Programme

Applications close Monday 16 May 2016; start date June 2016.

The GREEN Grid research programme is exploring the future of New Zealand's electricity grid under conditions of higher levels of renewable and distributed generation, and changing demand profiles. The programme involves researchers from Canterbury, Auckland and Otago Universities. The Otago research team focuses on household energy use and likely uptake of grid-connected technologies. <http://energycultures.org/green-grid-project/green-grid-project-overview/>

This Masters project is based at the University of Otago. It is associated with a work package that is seeking to understand and predict the uptake of photovoltaics across different geographic areas of New Zealand. The work package develops a systems model involving variables (such as solar irradiance, household income, home ownership, electricity charges) that are likely to influence the uptake of PV, and thereby its spatial distribution. The model will ultimately assist the electricity sector in exploring possible future uptake scenarios that could impact on the management of the electricity grid.

The Masters project will focus on collating and analysing data on these variables, to extract correlations with actual and plausible PV uptake. The data will feed into the development of the systems model.

Details of the Masters position:

The project is designed for a one-year thesis-only Masters. This is likely to be a Masters in Science, but this is negotiable depending on the background and focus of the student.

The scholarship has a value of \$13,000 pa plus domestic tuition fees.

Start date is June 2016, exact date to be negotiated.

Background required:

Good mathematics/statistics capability

A science degree with fourth-year studies completed (honours or post-graduate diploma) such that the student is eligible for a Masters by thesis only (B+ average or above).

A prior interest in energy is preferred but not essential.

Applications for this position should include:

- Covering letter
- CV including referee details
- Academic transcripts

Applications should be sent to jane.khan@otago.ac.nz by **Monday 16 May 2016**.