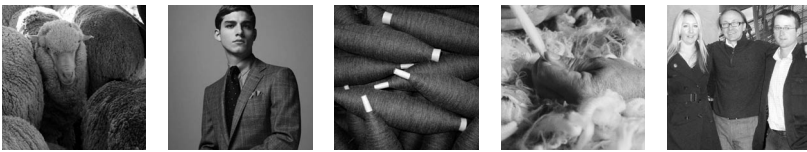


merino
inc.



New Zealand Biella Merino Ambassador

Applications are called for the 2009 New Zealand Biella Merino Ambassador programme. This initiative is to cultivate future leaders for the New Zealand merino industry by exposing them to the infrastructure of the Italian textile industry and gaining other industry experience.

The programme includes gaining knowledge and skills in New Zealand and a three week overseas trip in February/March 2009 that includes immersion into the Italian industry, based in Biella – the home of the Italian textile brands that influence fashion throughout the world.

Applications close on Friday 15th August 2008.

MEAT & WOOL
NEW ZEALAND

Background

Italy is internationally recognized as the world's most influential manufacturer of technical and design-led fabrics using natural fibres, especially fine merino.

The New Zealand merino industry respects and values the close associations it has with the Italian textile industry. This mutual respect has been earned by the New Zealand industry's responsiveness to the demands of the Italian processors and the strength of the commercial relationships whereby high quality New Zealand merino fibre is purchased by 'premium' Italian combbers, spinners and weavers.

Given this, the New Zealand merino industry would like to continue building and strengthening its relationship with the Italian textile sector in order to further develop the New Zealand merino industry.



Criteria for applicants

Applications are called for from young (age 35 and under) New Zealand merino supply chain participants – from on-farm to retail brands. The successful candidates will already be working within the industry and will have a passion for the future of New Zealand merino, and the potential to become a leader within the industry. Funding is available for two scholarship recipients.

Programme structure

The programme includes travel within New Zealand prior to visiting Italy to gain knowledge of the entire supply chain. This will be structured around current work commitments as appropriate. In Italy, the ambassador will be hosted by the Biella Master of the Noble Fibres secretariat to experience the merino pipeline, from the arrival of greasy wool, through combing, spinning, weaving and finishing, to final garments. There may be the opportunity to travel further within Europe and the UK as part of the programme. Details of the travel programme will be made available before selection interviews are conducted. Further personal travel could be included in the trip at the ambassador's own expense.

There will be a requirement to report back to Merino NZ Inc. on the programme experiences.

Critical dates

Applications close: Friday 15th August 2008

Short listed candidates notified by: Friday 29th August 2008

Successful candidates notified by: Tuesday 30th September 2008

New Zealand induction period: October 2008 – February 2009

Travel to Italy: February/March 2009 (dates to be confirmed with applicants)

To apply:

Please complete the application form opposite and the application essay and return the form to:

Allison Brook
Merino NZ Inc
P O Box 13646
Christchurch
Attn: Biella application

Note: referee details must be included in the application.

The New Zealand Biella Merino Ambassador programme is coordinated by Merino NZ Inc.



Application form:

Name.....

Address

Date of Birth

Phone (home) (mobile)

Email.....

Current role within the New Zealand merino industry and a brief outline of responsibilities:

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Referee's name.....

Address

Phone (home) (mobile)

Email.....

Referee's endorsement:

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Note: this referee needs to be able to provide an industry endorsement. For example, they should be a current employer, regional Merino Association chairperson or other industry representative.

By signing your name below you are granting us authority to contact you and/or your referee regarding this application.

Applicant's signature.....

Referee's signature

NB. The selection panel undertakes to choose the candidate/s most suitable for the programme. The panel also has the right not to select an ambassador should no suitable candidates apply.

