

**Projects and Papers Available**

# **EQUINE RESEARCH IN 2006**

**Guidelines for prospective 2006 students**



## **Initial Contacts**

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# **Research in Massey Equine and Equine Research New Zealand Guidelines for Prospective Students**

**2006**

## **PURPOSE**

This document outlines the guidelines for prospective postgraduate students to undertake research papers in association with Massey Equine or Equine Research New Zealand. The document is a general one, and applies to all students, from those taking a single paper at, for instance, Honours level in Applied Science, through to full time research PhD or Master's degrees.

The document is to have students recognise the processes and work involved in setting up research projects which will both be of benefit to the student's purpose and fit in with Massey Equine's strategic objectives. It also seeks to ensure that communication between the research student and the supervisory team is optimal, so that work can progress fruitfully and enjoyably for all those working in Massey University's equine research efforts.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligibility is not only a general consideration, but also involves details and criteria, which depend on the level, and degree that the student is intending for graduation. The relevant documents,

- Refer to IVABS Handbook for Postgrad Students, see "Regulations"
- Contact International Students Office (if international student) for application for admission
- Contact Enrolment Office (if NZ qualification)
- On arrival, complete "OGS2"

This should be consulted and any questions directed to Mrs Allain Scott, office of Postgraduate/Research Administration, IVABS. The student applies for the relevant paper or relevant degree through the postgraduate administration office to undertake research in the Equine area.

If your eligibility is approved, the possibility of your undertaking research studies in the group now depends on the number of postgraduate places we have available, the number of projects that are available, and your stated preferred area of research, These three depend upon the number of supervisors available to guide students in our projects, funding and other resources to be able to conduct projects, and on your research interests.

## **YOUR RESEARCH PREFERENCE**

We believe it is important that for you to be motivated and to progress productively and happily, it is important that you are working in the area that most interests you. However,

places in that particular area may already be taken, or we have no research currently ongoing in that subject. Also, some students do not know what they want to do, since they have little research experience. There are lots of possible unknowns at this stage, and therefore it is very important that this, our first communication about what you will actually do in your research project, is optimal.

We therefore require you to write a letter of intention. This letter allows us to assess why you are interested in research, and what you might want to do. You might have had vast experience in previous degrees, and know exactly where you wish to work. On the other hand, you may have no experience and have no preferred area, Neither is better than the other.

What is important however is that you:

- exactly what the case is,
- what you want to do, and why
- state something of your background, possible research experience, possible abilities
- which would be of use in a research project
- and then outline very clearly why you want to do equine research at all
- lastly indicate definitely what your three and five-year personal plan is, with regard to research and how it fits into this plan.

Our research group then considers the application you made to the postgraduate office, and the letter of intention you have sent to us. The person who might look after your work with us will get back to you, either in person, by phone, or by email (depending on physical location for the most part) and discuss with you more fully the possibilities which may or may not exist.

It may take some time to ensure that a research project can be created for you. The funding resources and animals may or may not be available at the time of your request for admission to our programme. Therefore you need to be clear in your letter of intention what your time line is, and we shall in turn indicate in our first communication when it is likely that your project could begin.

## **TIMING OF APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO OUR RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

Students applying for Masters and PhD degrees generally understand that the duration of the programme means that resources need to be identified and acquired, and therefore the time from application to beginning of the project can be more than a few months.

Some shorter projects however, can be started with a shorter horizon, but the horizon **MUST** be long enough to get the planning right. Therefore it is suggested that you make application, and go through the process indicated above well (several weeks) before you intend to begin the semester's work. This allows the necessary resources and supervisory team to be put together, and also allows you to make a flying start by suitable preparation before the beginning of the academic year.