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From the Swiss Embassy

Swiss Kiwi Stories are a YouTube hit

The Swiss Embassy invites you to view our first four short videos about outstanding Swiss Kiwis in celebration of 50 years of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and New Zealand.

- Goldsmith Kobi Bosshard is credited with introducing modernism into New Zealand.
- Nadine Jaggi won the coveted Supreme World of Wearable Art Award at only 26 years old.
- Wynton Rufer is New Zealand's most successful football player of all time.
- William Hunt is an artist who uses simple crayons to produce stunning works of art.

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As a subscriber, we will let you know when our next videos are up and running. Please stay tuned for Winter Games giant slalom winner Wendy Holdener and shot put sensation, Valerie Adams.

By Sarah Bradley, Embassy of Switzerland



Kobi Bosshard
Goldsmith and Mountaineer



Wynton Rufer
Oceania Football Player of the Century

New call for Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships 2014/2015 (Deadline: 15 November 2013)

The Swiss Government, through the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students, recently launched its call for the Swiss Government Excellence scholarships scheme for the academic year 2014/2015.

The Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships scheme offers:

- ◊ Research scholarships
- ◊ PHD scholarships
- ◊ Post-doctoral scholarships

Depending on the type of scholarship, the scheme offers a lump sum of roughly 2000 to 3500 CHF per month plus healthcare coverage for up to three years of full time study/research at one of the 10 Swiss Public Universities, the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology and public teaching and research institutes.

The main target group of the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships scheme are foreign nationals (i.e., New Zealand and Pacific Islands citizens). Double nationals holding the Swiss nationality are also able to apply under the condition that they have been permanent residents in New Zealand since birth and have spent all their school years in New Zealand. Applicants must be 35 years or under at the time of application.

The deadline for the submission of applications is 15th November 2013.

For more information on the scholarship scheme including eligibility criteria and how to obtain the application packages, please visit the website of the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington (www.eda.admin.ch/wellington) and click on the scholarships section.

By Flavio Milan, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland



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From the Swiss Embassy

First Kiwi awarded a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship

Last year, New Zealanders were able to apply for the "Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships" scheme for the very first time. Out of a handful of highly qualified applicants from New Zealand, Ben Mallett was selected by the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students.

Ben, who is 27 years old and holds a PhD from Victoria University of Wellington, recently arrived in Fribourg, Switzerland, together with his wife Monique. Here is a brief account he kindly sent to the Embassy and to the readers of Helvetia:

"Earlier this year, I was very happy to hear I had been awarded a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship for mid-2013 to mid-2014. The purpose of the scholarship is to carry out Post-Doctoral research at the physics department at University Fribourg, Switzerland.

Also, I am told that I am the first Kiwi to receive the scholarship because this was the first time New Zealanders could apply!"



Ben Mallett in the infra-red optics lab at Fribourg University

The research project uses infra-red light to study a special group of metal-oxides that can transmit electricity with zero resistance (the technical name for them is 'high-temperature superconductors').

The team I've joined in Fribourg are world experts at the particular measurement technique I will use to test a new theory and deepen our understanding of these metal-oxides. In addition, there are many visitors to the laboratory providing great opportunities to be exposed to and share a broad range of ideas.

These things make it the ideal place for the research project and a great chance to build a long-term working collaboration between scientists in New Zealand and Switzerland.

Away from the lab, I'm looking forward to learning as much of the local lingo as possible and experiencing the Swiss culture – and I think I have made a good start by having my first fondue... despite it being a balmy 25°C summer here! Fribourg is looking lovely – and we have a nice flat with a view of the pre-Alps. So everything is working out very well here and there's a lot to look forward to in the coming year.

And although it might go without saying, I would like to give my thanks to the Swiss Federation for this great opportunity."

By Flavio Milan, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland

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