

National Trade Academy Programme



“Semillero Rural” Chilean Agriculture Trainees

For

2018

Executive Summary

This is a proposal as requested by the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture for a new cohort of students in 2018 which provides student entry into New Zealand for the Semillero Rural programme whereby Chilean farm students undergo a New Zealand Agriculture Certificate, combined with paid farm work experience in New Zealand.

This programme would be for male and female high school graduates of 18+ years. It would entail a maximum of 44 weeks in New Zealand and end in the student's return to Chile to fulfil conditions signed in a bond with Chilean Government and business organisations.

The proposed programme is positive for all parties:

1. Students will be resourced, selected for quality and guaranteed to return to Chile.
2. Learning will integrate best practice in technical and vocational education and training.
3. Young Chileans will stay with New Zealand families and form lasting relationships.
4. New Zealand will reinforce its growing Chile relationship and its reputation for world-class agriculture.

The National Trade Academy

The National Trade Academy (NTA) is a Private Training Establishment which began offering training courses in January 2000. It offers pre-employment training to domestic and international students in land-based sectors including agriculture and equine. NTA is New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) approved and accredited, and is a signatory to the **Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students**. The NTA website www.nta.co.nz profiles the company and its activities.

For international agriculture students NTA provides:

- NZ Certificate in Primary Industry Skills Level 2 40 credits 12 weeks

The course and the work experience that follows on farm teaches international students industry skills and knowledge, in both theory and practice, used by New Zealand farmers to increase farm production and efficiency. This enables and encourages international students to return to their own country and apply the knowledge and skills gained.

Student Selection Process

Chilean students identified will be asked by Chilean authorities to apply for positions on the programme. The students will be selected and **may** undergo an initial English language course with prior to travel to NZ. Students would be selected by participating Chilean organisations using NTA eligibility criteria.

- **NTA will ask the students to complete an English test in Chile so that we can assess their level of English prior to coming to NZ.**
- **Students must have an agriculture background or have studied agriculture at a school or technical institute in Chile.**
- **Students will be a minimum of 18 years of age and a minimum height of 1.5m (due to Health and Safety requirements)**
- **Students will need to be physically fit and able and be able to carry out all physical tasks required of working on a NZ farm. If there is any doubt on a student's ability to meet the criteria the Academy must be contacted to confirm the student's eligibility.**
- **It is preferable that the students hold a Chilean Drivers Licence.**

The travel arrangements and application process will be managed by NTA's Chilean representative Liliana Botero.

Pastoral Care of Students:

NTA is responsible for the pastoral care of the students from the time they arrive in New Zealand and during their time on course and their work placement, until they leave NZ at the end of the 44 weeks.

It is the responsibility of the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that the students know that they must abide by all rules and regulations set by NTA and also abide by the requirements of their visa in respect to leaving NZ and returning to Chile at the end of the programme.

Work Component

The educational value of significant practical experience on-farm is as follows. It will:

- Verify and enhance students' skills and knowledge gained during their course of study.
- Offer immersion into the work ethics, culture and values of New Zealand farming.
- NTA will coordinate the placement of the students onto a farm and provide post placement support.
- Employers and students will sign an employment agreement outlining the terms and conditions of employment to comply with all relevant employment law in NZ and showing the rates of pay, annual and special leave and other minimum statutory requirements as outlined in NZ law.

Hours of work will vary, especially during the calving season when they will be higher, but will be on average between 45-55 hours per week as per the usual industry standard for the agriculture industry, however during the calving season (August-September) this may increase to 60+ hours depending on the farm size and ease of calving.

Educational

- The programme offers skill development opportunities to Chileans looking at a career in agriculture.
- On completion of the course students will have a better understanding of English, modern farming systems and animal husbandry and a wider vision of the future.
- NTA now includes the Certificate in Vocational English Teaching from the University of Greenwich in London, United Kingdom. NTA are the only Institute in New Zealand to offer this additional certificate. Which focuses on teaching English using Agricultural Vocational English text books.
- The course of study will enhance the student's knowledge on improving farm productivity on farms in Chile.
- Students will be enriched by their educational and living experiences in New Zealand

Proposal

It is proposed that Chilean students will arrive in early March 2018 to complete a programme of study and related work for a total of 44 weeks. Students would be senior high school students of 18 years or older. The programme is summarised on the following page and:

- Begins with 6 weeks English language training at the NTA Training Centre or its Partner "Alpha Education Institute" and Farm in Christchurch.
- Continues with 10-12 weeks' study in the NZ Farms Skills Certificate.
- Ends with a 24 week work placement.

Students would initially live in Christchurch city in home stays but between 16 -18 weeks would transfer to living on a farm. Such farms would be in Canterbury or other targeted regions where placement supply is plentiful and farm workers in short supply.

Students would be paid according to market rates of pay above the minimum rate as determined under New Zealand law and employment conditions and work on average 45-55 hours per week.

	Live	Study	Work	
Week 0	Arrives New Zealand			
1	Homestay	6 weeks English Lang. Learning		
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3				
4				
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6				
7		10-12 weeks Cert in New Zealand Farm Skills NTA Coursework		
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16	On-Farm		On-Farm work experience "Practical"	
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19	On-Farm		24 weeks On-Farm Practical	
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= Monitoring Reports				

Dates for Training:

- Expected arrival date in NZ: 3rd March 2018
 - Course start date: 5th March 2018
 - Work Experience starts: 25th June 2018
 - Course finish date: 6th July 2018
 - Paid Employment starts: 9th July 2018
 - Depart NZ: by the 2nd March 2019 (or visa expiry date)
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- The reason for these dates is to fit in with the NZ Dairy Farming and employment season.

Payment:

Payment for the course will be required to be paid into the NTA Public Trust Account by the 25th November 2017 to confirm places.

Each student will receive an “offer of Place” outlining course details; an invoice outlining fees and a telegraphic transfer form to assist with payment into our Public Trust Account. All fees are quoted in **Chilean Pesos** as outlined by the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture.