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**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**For Immediate Release**

**International Polar Year Media Scholar announced.**

University of Canterbury Journalism student, Naomi Arnold, has been selected as Antarctica New Zealand's inaugural International Polar Year Media Scholar. Naomi will spend six weeks over the coming Antarctic summer season at Scott Base covering a range of stories from the Ice, including the science events of the last season of the International Polar Year (IPY).

Antarctica New Zealand's Chief Executive, Lou Sanson, said, "Fifty years on from the International Geophysical Year of 1957-58, the IPY marks a significant leap forward in international cooperation in polar science. Communicating the science we support is critical to the success of the IPY and we are pleased to have someone of Naomi's calibre on the ice to cover this."

Naomi Arnold is a student of the University of Canterbury's Graduate Diploma in Journalism, with strong interests in the areas of science, environment and technology. This will be Naomi's first experience of the Ice. Naomi said, "I would never have expected an incredible opportunity like this so early in my career. I'm hoping to help New Zealanders become a little more familiar with Antarctica and the research that goes on there."

The IPY Media Scholarship is a collaboration between Antarctica New Zealand and the University of Canterbury. Associate Professor Jim Tully, Head of the University of Canterbury's School of Political Science and Communication, said, "This is a wonderful opportunity for one of our students to develop experience and expertise in reporting a region of great importance to New Zealand. This significant collaboration is further evidence of the university's strong links with Antarctica and Christchurch's position as the gateway to Antarctica."

Naomi will fly to Scott Base in mid-November.

**Ends**

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