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New summer studentship in health economics research

A partnership between the University of Auckland Business School and pharmaceutical company Roche is providing the opportunity for an Economics graduate to gain real world experience of the corporate world, whilst applying economics research techniques in a health policy setting.

The studentship, funded by Roche, covers a research project spanning eight weeks.

Finance and Economics graduate Zikhai Zao completed his BComm (Hons) this year at the Business School and will spend the summer working within the company on a healthcare economics project.

"Increasingly, economics is a technical and specialised discipline where "clinical" training opportunities are invaluable", says Rhema Vaithianathan, Associate Professor in Economics.

"Roche has provided the student with a complex policy question and excellent resources to help address the issue. As a pilot for the Economics Department, the internship is an extremely successful model. It reflects the department's commitment to producing high quality economists with cutting edge technical skills and the ability to apply these skills to real world problems. "

Under the direction of supervisors from the University and Roche the work will explore the public subsidy which medicines attract in private treatment settings.

"Economic evaluation of health interventions is becoming increasingly important as governments grapple with ever increasing healthcare costs" said Stuart Knight, Managing Director of Roche "By offering these opportunities we hope to encourage New Zealand's emerging talent to move into this arena and become the future leaders that New Zealand will need in this field"

Following this year's pilot it is hoped that the studentship will be available annually to students of Economics from the Business School.
ENDS

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About Roche

Roche Products (New Zealand) Ltd is the pharmaceutical division of Roche in New Zealand, and is the leading provider of oncology medicines in New Zealand. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world's largest biotech company with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, virology, inflammation, metabolism and CNS. Roche is also the world leader in in-vitro diagnostics, tissue-based cancer diagnostics and a pioneer in diabetes management. Roche's personalised healthcare strategy aims at providing medicines and diagnostic tools that enable tangible improvements in the health, quality of life and survival of patients. In 2009, Roche had over 80'000 employees worldwide and invested almost 10 billion Swiss francs in R&D. The Group posted sales of 49.1 billion Swiss francs. Genentech, United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche has a majority stake in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information: www.roche.com