



Funded PhD in Geo/Soil/Environmental chemistry at the University of Auckland

Applications are invited to do a PhD on erionite weathering and transport in soil to be based at the School of Environment, The University of Auckland, New Zealand. The successful applicant will contribute the ongoing MBIE Endeavour project, “**Assessing and managing the risk of carcinogenic erionite in New Zealand**”. This position is a great opportunity to be part of a large interdisciplinary consortium based in New Zealand and overseas, and to carry out research on a topic that has been poorly explored up to now. The key focus of the PhD candidate will be to determine the fate of erionite in soil profile and overlying bedrock (e.g. weathering, transport processes). Contributions to related activities are also expected (e.g. mapping, development of diagnostic tool and risk assessment). Results will be disseminated through a range of channels and will have impact in the international scientific community as well as for local risk managers. The project will thus provide many opportunities to develop a set of scientific and transferable skills that are valuable for career development. Supervisors are [Melanie Kah](#) and [Martin Brook](#). The successful candidate will receive a tax-free stipend, for up to 36 months. In addition, while in receipt of the scholarship, the University will cover your tuition and student services fees in full.

The ideal candidate will have:

- A **MSc/Hons** (or equivalent) in geochemistry, mineralogy, soil chemistry or related disciplines.
- Demonstrated **strong research skills** including research methods, writing, presentation.
- Experience (or strong interest) in performing **field work and laboratory experiments** involving hazardous chemicals, and running analytical instruments (XRD, SEM and TEM in particular).
- Good organisation, collaborative and project management skills, attention to details.
- Fluent oral and written communication skills in English
- A full driver’s license.

Starting date: ideally December 2022 or January 2023. We will review applications as they come and until the position is filled. We welcome applications from students who are already in NZ as well as from students based overseas.

How to apply: Please send one pdf document including your CV (2 pages max.), a letter of motivation (1 page max.) and an example of your own written work (e.g. thesis, article) to Melanie Kah melanie.kah@auckland.ac.nz. Feel free to contact Melanie with specific questions if you have any.