

2017/8 Summer Student at MPI

When she worked at the **Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)**, **Trisha Castillo** had completed 3 years of her Massey food tech degree, majoring in Food Product Technology.

In her role as an Adviser in the Regulation and Assurance Branch, Animal Products Team, Trisha's work included:

- Updating and monitoring of roadmap procedures for some of the major food sectors (i.e. meat, seafood, poultry etc.)
- Looking at all the public and stakeholder enquiries that came in and carrying out analysis to determine frequently asked questions and trends
- Reviewing New Zealand acts, regulations, and notices as well as regulations from other countries (i.e. China, USA, EU) to collate references to HACCP
- Proofreading and formatting of legislative standards and industry codes of practice and guidance.

Trisha reports: "I would say that working for MPI has truly exceeded my expectations, and has given me a work experience like no other. A day-long trip shadowing an MPI verifier as they audited a food premise, attending training workshops (i.e. HACCP and WTO) and visiting the Wellington Airport to learn about the biosecurity measures undertaken, were just some of the many opportunities offered. From shadowing a verifier, I was able to witness firsthand how regulatory standards are applied and checked, which made me appreciate the high standards that New Zealand sets to ensure the production of safe and high quality food products. Carrying out tasks for both the Dairy Products team as well as the Production and Processing team allowed me to acquire a wide range of food industry related knowledge, which I believe I can use to my advantage for my last year of studies. Furthermore, everyone in the animal products team (including the animal exports and imports team!) welcomed me with open arms and provided me a working environment where I can continuously grow and improve."



Natalie (left) and Trisha

Trisha was supervised by **Natalie Collins, Manager Dairy Products**, and mentored by **Hillary Tuason**, herself a Massey food technology graduate. Natalie comments: “MPI has a vital role in protecting public health in New Zealand and enabling Market Access opportunities for food products that are exported all over the world. The Animal Products Team within MPI’s Regulation and Assurance Branch has employed Food Technology students over the summer period for a number of years, and we enjoy the calibre of students who come to join us. It is great to be able to give students an insight to the regulatory environment for food and expose students to the requirements that companies need to understand and comply with. To make effective regulation, MPI requires people with a good technical knowledge of food manufacturing, and Food Technology is one of those key skill sets that can translate into the regulatory environment and help New Zealand Food Companies succeed both within New Zealand and in overseas markets. Trisha has been a great addition to our team and she was a fast learner who picked up the tasks quickly.”