



# Become a qualified irrigation designer!

If you're wanting to further your career as an irrigation designer, completing a Certificate in Irrigation Design will help you acquire the specialist skills required to design efficient and sustainable irrigation systems.

The next certificate course starts in mid January 2019 and runs for 18 months. It includes nine days of modular training in Lincoln as well as on the job assignments and it is suitable for people with prior knowledge and experience in irrigation. The certificate is a NZQA Level 5 qualification.

## REGISTER FOR THIS QUALIFICATION

To find out more about the qualification phone 03 341 2225 or email [events@irrigationnz.co.nz](mailto:events@irrigationnz.co.nz). Registrations for the 2019 intake close on 18 December 2018.

We spoke with Sam Franklin of Waterforce, who started the qualification in January 2018, about how he's finding the course.

### *What have been the most interesting or enjoyable parts of the course to date?*

The course is run by highly regarded and experienced people in the industry. The fundamentals of water hydraulics is very important for me as a designer. This course covers basic water physics at the start which are the nucleus of figuring out any stage of an irrigation design on any scale.

There are visits from industry that are very interesting to get their perspective on real life experiences.

The contract and commissioning phase of the course to me was something I think I could improve on particularly but not limited to large scale jobs that span a long period of time with multiple parties and personnel involved. Again how easy the commissioning of a job is all comes back to the designer and how things are set out. The message we got drilled into us was pressure gauges! A cheap piece of equipment, yet it saves a lot of time fault finding.



Photos above: The 2018 Certificate in Irrigation Design class.

The course has a lot crammed into nine days over three weeks, and four assignments to do after the modules over 18 months but it is all well worth it. I met other designers from all areas of the country and it's interesting to hear their experiences. The course is well organised.

### *Have you applied anything you have learnt on the job yet?*

Yes I have. I have put a lot more emphasis on figuring out soil type and local climatic conditions to narrow down system capacity requirements. Water is getting more scarce and energy is expensive so justifying the water required for particular designs is important for the farmers back pocket and the environment.

### *Would you recommend the course to others?*

Yes. I think you probably need a couple of years' experience in the industry but give it a go. You will come out learning a lot and no doubt this will give you the edge to progress your career further.