

# NZSA SECS Network AGM Report – December 2025

**Muskaan**

## SECS Network Committee

This year, the SECS Network transitioned from a regional-representative model to a new committee structure. Every committee member actively contributed to at least one activity supporting the network, fulfilling the aim behind the restructure.

## Launch of the NZSA Tidy International Travel Scholarship

In 2025, SECS, in collaboration with NZSA, introduced the **NZSA Tidy International Travel Scholarship** to support students and early-career statisticians attending international conferences related to statistics and data science.

This was initiated by Jie Kang and sponsored by Hadley Wickham. The applications were open for a longer period, being the first time the scholarship was introduced. There were 10 applications. SECS Awards Committee shortlisted the applicants based on the scholarship goals. The NZSA Awards Committee selected a recipient by a random draw.

The 2025 scholarship was awarded to **Sarah Croft**, a PhD student at University of Otago to attend the IBS-AR Conference 2025 (“Biometrics in the Bush Capital”, Canberra, Australia, 24–28 Nov 2025).

This scholarship represents a major step toward increasing international exposure and mobility for NZ-based students/early-career statisticians

## SECS Awards Committee

The introduction of the NZSA Tidy International Travel Scholarship led to the formation of the **SECS Awards Committee**, which designed the application process and ensured applications met the scholarship criteria.

## SECS Webinars & New NZSA YouTube Channel

In 2025, NZSA launched a YouTube channel to provide members with access to recorded webinars, improving accessibility for those unable to attend live sessions.

SECS delivered the following webinars this year (all available on the NZSA YouTube channel):

- **Career Progression: Commonalities & Differences from Academia to Industry**  
Panelists: Olivia Angelin-Bonnet, Tom Moore, and Hana Liang  
Attendance: ~15 participants  
Discussion topics included career progression, multidisciplinary teamwork, practical skills, and lessons learned when moving from university study into applied research roles.
- **Crafting Your Data Science Journey: Skills for Industry Success**  
Speaker: Dr. Anjali Gupta  
Attendance: ~50 participants  
Focused on the importance of strong foundations in mathematics, statistics, and critical thinking.
- **Navigating the Recruitment Process with Potentia**  
Speaker: Tim Cooke  
Attendance: ~50 participants  
Covered strategies for job seekers to prepare for a highly competitive 2025 job market.

## What's next?

The SECS Network will continue refining the design and filtering process for the NZSA Tidy International Travel Scholarship.

We have also appointed a SECS representative to the Committee for Engagement with Statistics in Industry.

As I plan to step down from my role as Network Lead in 2027, I have arranged for a co-lead to join next year to ensure a smooth transition.

## Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank the NZSA Executive Committee for their valuable support throughout the year.

Special thanks to:

- **Jie Kang** for introducing the scholarship idea and securing sponsorship.
- **Hadley Wickham** for his generous sponsorship.
- SECS Awards Committee members – **Hu Jinxian, Jyotsna Garg, and Andre Macleod Hungar** – for managing the first scholarship round.
- **Jamas Bristow and Yongshi Agnes Deng** for bringing in ideas and speakers for our webinars.
- **Amy Li** for managing our social media platforms (Facebook and LinkedIn).

Thank you to everyone who attended our webinars and applied for the scholarship. We hope these initiatives have been beneficial to you.

## Get Involved!

There are several ways you can contribute to the SECS Network:

- Share feedback on the scholarship process
- Join the SECS Network (NZSA) as a member or a committee member
- Join the SECS Awards Committee
- Offer to facilitate a webinar
- Assist with organising the programme
- Suggest ideas for future initiatives

If you're keen to get involved or have suggestions, please email **[secs@stats.org.nz](mailto:secs@stats.org.nz)**.

We look forward to connecting with many of you throughout 2026.