The two 2006 Ethel Benjamin prize-winners - Nicole Roughan and Katherine Sanders - have several things in common. Both are from Wellington, both will attend Yale University, both will study towards an LLM and both are also 2006 Fulbright Award recipients.

Nicole Roughan
Auckland (LLB) Victoria (LLM)

Nicole graduated BA /LLB from Auckland University in 2005 and has since completed an LLM (Thesis) while working as an assistant lecturer at Victoria University.

Her LLM specialisation at Yale will be legal philosophy and international law, with research objectives of examining the nature of authority in the international legal system, and the extent to which international law is able to claim legal authority.

"In particular, I will consider what the 'rule of law' requires of the international system, and how any defects in that system affect the authority of international law," Nicole says.

The Law Foundation established the Ethel Benjamin scholarship to commemorate New Zealand’s first woman lawyer. It is awarded each year to outstanding women scholars to support post-graduate research in law that encompasses the Foundation’s wider objectives, in particular research that will protect and promote the interests of the public in relation to legal matters in New Zealand. Most years, two scholarships are awarded.