

Background

The High Resolution Plant Phenomics Centre has, with the support of the ACT Government, established a scholarship program to foster novel plant phenomics research, and invites applications from suitably qualified applicants.

Up to four PhD top-up scholarships may be awarded. These awards are intended to supplement the funding of primary scholarship holders and assist them to conduct innovative research that will explore how new phenomics technologies make a contribution to understanding plant form and function.

Honours year scholarships may also be awarded.

Postgraduate Scholarships

Eligibility

1. Applicants must:
 - (a) be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia;
 - (b) have completed requirements for the award of an appropriate Science Degree with a minimum of upper second-class Honours; and
 - (c) be enrolled, or eligible to enrol as a full-time student in an approved post-bachelor course at an Australian University.
2. To be eligible for a PhD Top Up Scholarship, applicants must be:
 - awarded a three year competitive postgraduate scholarship, such as an APA; and
 - be able to undertake their laboratory research program at the HRPPC in Canberra.
3. To be eligible for an Honours Scholarship, applicants must be:
 - Enrolled for a full-time Honours year course, and
 - be able to undertake their laboratory research program at the HRPPC in Canberra.
4. Applicants must use the official application form and supply all required documentation.
5. Applications close on Friday 19 December, 2008 at 5.00 pm

Selection

1. Selection will be by competition. Applications will be assessed by the HRPPC management committee on the basis of academic record, research experience

and appropriateness of their proposed research topic. Interviews may be conducted.

2. The HRPPC reserves the right not to make an award.

Award

1. PhD Top-Up Scholarships and Honours year scholarships will be valued at \$5,000 per annum.
2. A project plan will be developed between the student and the Centre.
3. The PhD Top-Up Scholarship is awarded for 1 year in the first instance. The scholarship may be renewed annually (for up to three years in toto) subject to the Scholarship recipient performing satisfactorily in their research and remaining enrolled for the PhD degree.
4. Students already enrolled for a PhD who wish to use the Centre during their course may apply for a Top-up scholarship for part of their course of study.
5. HRPPC has identified a number of priority research areas, each reflecting a global challenge and the role that advances in plant biology can play in a solution:
 - The use of C4 plants as biofuel feedstocks;
 - Abiotic stress / drought tolerance in cereals;
 - Photosynthesis, climate change and crop yield;
 - Bioinformatics – data mining to identify positive traits in plant populations;
 - Application of robotic vision to plant phenotyping;
 - Application of image analysis techniques to understanding plant form and function.

Students proposing other topics will also be considered.

6. All students will receive laboratory resources, desk space, computer access etc in CSIRO Plant Industry and / or ANU, depending which Phenomics equipment they use.

Regulations

1. Scholarships shall be awarded for educational purposes only.
2. Candidates must hold a degree from a recognised university, normally of at least IIA Honours standard or its equivalent.
3. A PhD Top-up scholarship holder shall be enrolled as a full-time candidate for a PhD degree at an Australian University.
4. An Honours year scholarship holder shall be enrolled as a full-time Honours year (normally 4th year) at an Australian University.
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6. Intellectual property and licensing arrangements will be discussed with successful applicants, on a case-by-case basis.
 7. Scholarship holders must undertake their laboratory research within the HRPPC, at CSIRO Plant Industry, Canberra and / or ANU.
 8. Annual renewal of the PhD Top-up scholarship will be subject to the candidate remaining enrolled, on a full-time basis, for the PhD and abiding by an agreed project plan.
 9. Scholarship holders shall support and participate in HRPPC activities.
 10. A scholarship holder shall be granted recreation leave of up to four weeks annually at a time mutually agreeable to the awardee and supervisor.
 11. Continuation of a PhD Top-up scholarship is subject to satisfactory academic progress, determined by the Student's supervisor and by the Research Director of the HRPPC, in an annual review of progress at the end of each academic year. An award may be suspended, or terminated, where the following is deemed to have occurred:
 - (a) unsatisfactory academic progress;
 - (b) the conditions of award have not been met;
 - (c) the scholarship holder does not resume full-time study at the conclusion of a period of suspension;
 - (d) the student ceases to be enrolled full-time and approval has not been obtained to suspend the award.
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