

Postgraduate Research Scholarship in Pollination Ecology of *Apis Cerana*

Terms and Conditions

August 2017

1. Background

- a. A unique opportunity is available for an outstanding PhD scholar. The position will be jointly supervised by the Behaviour and Ecology of Invertebrates Lab and the Behaviour and Genetics of Social Insects Lab at the University of Sydney. The recipient will develop a research project focused on the pollination ecology of the invasive honey bee *Apis Cerana* in tropical crops including pollination efficacy, population density and interactions with native and non-native pollinators. The project is part of a large multi-institutional research project, funded by the Australian government, aimed at studying pollination ecology in Australian crops.

2. Eligibility

- a. Applicants must have an unconditional offer of admission for full-time studies in a PhD within the Faculty of Science at the University of Sydney by the application closing date, and be willing to undertake research in the field of pollination ecology of *Apis Cerana*.
- b. Applicants must also hold an Honours degree (First Class or Second Class upper) or equivalent research component with a background in any or of the following; entomology, ecology and pollination biology.
- c. Applicants must be able to work with stinging bees.

3. Selection Criteria

- a. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship on the basis of:
 - I. academic merit,
 - II. area of study and research proposal,
 - III. curriculum vitae, and
 - IV. a personal statement which demonstrates their interest in the area of research and evidence of prior experience working with bees and field work.
- b. Prior experience of field work in the tropics and with social insects will be preferred.
- c. Shortlisted applicants will be required to attend an interview.
- d. The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship by the nomination of the relevant research supervisor(s) in the Faculty of Science.

4. Value

- a. For non RTP Scholarship recipients, the Scholarship will provide an annual stipend allowance of \$26,682 per annum (indexed to the RTP rate on 1 January) for up to three years, subject to satisfactory academic performance. An extension of up to six months is permitted.
- b. Academic course fees and the Student Services Amenities fee are also provided for a successful international applicant, for the same duration as the stipend allowance.

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- c. Where a domestic (Australian citizens and Australian permanent residents only) recipient is already in receipt of an RTP Scholarship, they will only receive an annual supplementary allowance of \$5,000 (fixed rate) for up to three years. An extension of up to six months is permitted.
- d. Periods of study already undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the Scholarship, will be deducted from the maximum duration of the Scholarship excluding the potential extension period.
- e. The Scholarship cannot be deferred or transferred to another area of research.
- f. No other amount is payable.
- g. The Scholarship will be offered subject to the availability of funding.

5. Eligibility for Progression

- a. Progression is subject to passing the annual progress review.

6. Leave Arrangements

- a. The Scholarship recipient receives up to 20 working days recreation leave each year of the Scholarship and this may be accrued. However, the student will forfeit any unused leave remaining when the Scholarship is terminated or complete. Recreation leave does not attract a leave loading and the supervisor's agreement must be obtained before leave is taken.
- b. The Scholarship recipient may take up to 10 working days sick leave each year of the Scholarship and this may be accrued over the tenure of the Scholarship. Students with family responsibilities, caring for sick children or relatives, or experiencing domestic violence, may convert up to five days of their annual sick leave entitlement to carers leave on presentation of medical certificate(s). Students taking sick leave must inform their supervisor as soon as practicable.

7. Research Overseas

- a. The Scholarship recipient may not normally conduct research overseas within the first six months of award.
- b. The Scholarship holder may conduct up to 12 months of their research outside Australia. Approval must be sought from the student's supervisor, Head of Department and HDRAC, and will only be granted if the research is essential for completion of the degree. All periods of overseas research are cumulative and will be counted towards a student's candidature. Students must remain enrolled full-time at the University and receive approval to count time away.

8. Suspension

- a. The Scholarship recipient cannot suspend their award within their first six months of study, unless a legislative provision applies.

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- b. The Scholarship recipient may apply for up to 12 months suspension for any reason during the tenure of their Scholarship. Periods of suspension are cumulative and failure to resume study after suspension will result in the award being terminated. Approval to suspend must be given by both HDRAC and the head of the department concerned. Periods of study towards the degree during suspension of the Scholarship will be deducted from the maximum tenure of the Scholarship.

9. Changes in Enrolment

- a. The Scholarship recipient must notify HDRAC and their supervisor promptly of any planned changes to their enrolment including but not limited to: attendance pattern, suspension, leave of absence, withdrawal, course transfer, and candidature upgrade or downgrade. If the award holder does not provide notice of the changes identified above, the University may require repayment of any overpaid stipend.

10. Termination

- a. Unless terminated earlier under this paragraph, the Scholarship will terminate:
 - I. on resignation or withdrawal of the student from their PhD,
 - II. upon submission of the thesis or at the end of the award,
 - III. if the student ceases to be a full-time student and prior approval has not been obtained to hold the Scholarship on a part-time basis,
 - IV. if the recipient receives an alternative primary scholarship. In such circumstances this Scholarship will be terminated in favour of the alternative scholarship where it is of higher value,
 - V. where relevant, on receipt of another supplementary scholarship that increases the overall supplementary rate paid to a student to more than 75% of the primary amount. In such circumstances, the supplementary scholarship of the higher value prevails,
 - VI. does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave
 - VII. does not resume study at the end of a period of approved leave, or
 - VIII. If the student ceases to meet the eligibility requirements specified for this Scholarship, (other than during a period in which the Scholarship has been suspended or during a period of approved leave).
- b. The Scholarship may also be terminated by the University before this time if, in the opinion of the University:
 - I. the course of study is not being carried out with competence and diligence or in accordance with the terms of this offer,
 - II. the student fails to maintain satisfactory progress, or
 - III. the student has committed misconduct or other inappropriate conduct.
- c. Stipend payments will be suspended throughout the duration of any enquiry/appeal process.
- d. Once the Scholarship has been terminated, it will not be reinstated.

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11. Misconduct

- a. Where during the Scholarship a student engages in misconduct, or other inappropriate conduct (either during the Scholarship or in connection with the student's application and eligibility for the Scholarship), which in the opinion of the University warrants recovery of funds paid to the student, the University may require the student to repay stipend amounts and any other payments made to the student in connection with the Scholarship. Examples of such conduct include and without limitation; academic dishonesty, research misconduct within the meaning of the *Research Code of Conduct* (for example, plagiarism in proposing, carrying out or reporting the results of research, or failure to declare or manage a serious conflict of interests), breach of the *Code of Conduct for Students* and misrepresentation in the application materials or other documentation associated with the Scholarship.
- b. The University may require such repayment at any time during or after the Scholarship period. In addition, by accepting this Scholarship, the student consents to all aspects of any investigation into misconduct in connection with this Scholarship being disclosed by the University to the funding body and/or any relevant professional body.