# Postgraduate Top-Up Scholarships

Role summary for potential applicants

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| Advertised Job Title**:** | CSIRO Postgraduate Scholarships - **Synthetic Biology Future Science Platform** |
| Reference Number**:** | 47661 |
| Scholarship: | AU$7,000 per year as a top up scholarship (stipend), plus a generous operating budget of up to $10,000 per annum |
| Location**:** | Various locations across Australia |
| Length of Engagement: | (Up to) 3 year term (concordant with existing RTP or scholarship) |
| Applications are open to: | Australian Citizens Only  Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents Only   * All Candidates |
| Research Areas**:** | Various – please see the list at the end of this document |
| How to Apply: | *Before you apply please read the information in this document about these scholarships. There is additional information on our* [*Postgraduate scholarships*](http://www.csiro.au/en/Careers/Student-and-graduate-programs/Postgraduate-scholarships) *page at CSIRO Careers.*  To apply, you must complete the **Application Form** AND the **CV Form** available at the end of this document. Please prepare **ONE** document which includes these two forms (and does not include any other components). After preparing this document please return to the advertisement and complete the following steps to apply:   1. click on the ‘***Apply Now***’ button to either create a Candidate Profile or to login to your current account. Enter your personal details and then click *‘****Next***’ to move to the application form 2. complete the form and upload the **one document** you prepared as requested above in the field labelled ‘***Resume and cover letter***’ 3. complete the ***Preferences*** section by selecting your **1-2 preferred research areas (Application Domains)** from the list below in order of preference in the *Preference 1* and *Preference 2* fields (e.g. ***Synthetic Biology 1***; ***Synthetic Biology 2;***  etc); and 4. upload your **academic results** in the ‘***Requested Information***‘ field.   If you experience difficulties applying online call 1300 984 220 and someone will be able to assist you. Outside business hours please email: [csiro-careers@csiro.au](mailto:csiro-careers@csiro.au).  *Please do not email your application. Applications received via this method may not be considered.* |
| About CSIRO**:** | At the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), we shape the future. We do this by using science and technology to solve real issues. Our solutions make a difference to industry, people and the planet.  We’ve been pushing the edge of what’s possible for almost 90 years. Today we have thousands of talented people working across Australia and internationally. Our people work closely with industry and communities to leave a lasting legacy. Collectively, our innovation and excellence places us in the top ten applied research agencies in the world.  CSIRO. We imagine. We collaborate. We innovate. |

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| About CSIRO Future Science Platforms | [Future Science Platforms](http://www.csiro.au/en/About/Future-Science-Platforms) are an investment in science that underpins innovation and that has the potential to help reinvent and create new industries for Australia. FSPs will see us grow the capability of new generation of researchers and allow Australia to attract the best students and experts to work with us on future science. They are strategic investments aimed at developing capacity in areas of identified future importance for Australia. FSPs are both impact and science focused, developing innovative scientific solutions with industry, government and university partners. They support world class, coherent and creative research teams which integrate science and delivery over the long term, looking to the future science needs of CSIRO and our partners with a 5 to 10 year vision. |
| About the Synthetic Biology Future Science Platform | Synthetic Biology (SynBio) is the design and construction of biological parts, devices, and organisms (usually based on DNA-encoded componentry); and their application for useful purposes. To position Australia to build a vibrant synthetic biology research and development community to support the bio-based industries and ecoengineering activities of tomorrow, CSIRO has established the [Synthetic Biology FSP](https://research.csiro.au/synthetic-biology-fsp/) (SynBioFSP). The SynBioFSP has a mission to develop capacity in synthetic biology within CSIRO and across Australia. The program has a $13 M funding envelope over the first three years. |

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| **Role Overview:** |
| CSIRO’s Postgraduate Scholarship Program provides enhanced opportunities in science and engineering for outstanding graduates enrolling each year at Australian tertiary institutions as full-time postgraduates for research leading to the award of a PhD. Top-up Scholarships are available to PhD students who have gained (or expect to gain) a Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship or equivalent scholarship.  At the time of submitting an application for a CSIRO PhD Scholarship, students must have, or expect to gain, first class honours or equivalent in a relevant research area. Students must also expect to receive a Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship or equivalent scholarship awarded on a competitive basis, and be commencing their PhD program by 31st June 2018.  Joint supervision of students by a university and a CSIRO supervisor is required and such joint supervisory arrangements must be consistent with the Higher Degree by Research Regulations of the host university. The primary supervisor may be either the university or CSIRO supervisor.  Recipients of CSIRO Postgraduate Studentships are generally required to be Australian citizens or have permanent residency status. However, in fields in which there is a national skill shortage, studentships may be awarded to overseas candidates provided they are prepared to seek permanent residency as soon as possible within Australian Government policy guidelines. International students must be able to show evidence of admission to an Australian university, as well as evidence that either their living costs or international student tuition fees are being covered by another scholarship or from private funds.  CSIRO Postgraduate Scholarships are being offered in the priority research topic areas at various locations. **Details of research areas and contact details are available in the pages below.** |
| Pre-Requisites/Eligibility: |
| ***To be eligible to apply you must have (or expect to gain):***   * first class honours or equivalent in a relevant research area; * admission to an Australian University as a PhD student; * a Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship or equivalent awarded on a competitive basis; and   ***At the time of application you must also have:***   * a project which aligns with one or more of the SynBioFSP’s [Application Domains](https://research.csiro.au/synthetic-biology-fsp/application-domains/), and one or more of the [Science Domains](https://research.csiro.au/synthetic-biology-fsp/science-domains/) * a CSIRO supervisor who is willing to co-supervise you * a university supervisor who is willing and able to co-supervise you   International applicants must have the appropriate immigration approvals to allow them to take up the scholarship. |

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| **Selection Criteria:** |
| ***The criteria on which the applications will be assessed are:***   1. **Quality and relevance of student project:** The novelty and innovation of the project are assessed through the information provided in the Application Form. The research must be aligned with one or more of the SynBioFSP’s Application Domains, and one or more of the Science Domains. 2. **Academic calibre of the student:** The quality of the student is also critical to the assessment of a scholarship. This is judged from academic transcripts, awards, and other information provided in the CV Form. Candidates must provide undergraduate transcripts and must hold (or expect to gain) a relevant first class honours (or equivalent) degree from a recognised University. 3. **Availability of appropriate supervision:** The relevance of both the CSIRO and the University supervisors’ research backgrounds and their willingness to supervise the student on a collaborative basis should be clear. There is a section where the collaborative arrangement can be described in the Application Form.   As Australia’s Innovation Catalyst, CSIRO has strategic actions underpinned by behaviours aligned to Excellent science, Inclusion, trust & respect, Health, safety & environment and Deliver on commitments. In your application and at interview you will need to demonstrate alignment with these behaviours. |

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| **Research Area No.** | **Synthetic Biology - Postgraduate Scholarships Research Areas:** |
| **Synthetic Biology 1** | **Application Domain:** Chemicals & Fibres  **Description**  SynBio will have a significant role in providing substantial and disruptive technologies to our traditional industries, including chemical and fibre manufacture. In the future, manufacture of many chemicals will be achieved via biological routes, this will include new chemicals that are currently unobtainable or impractical via traditional chemical syntheses. Many traditional fibre production systems and chemical manufacturing processes will be supplanted by more efficient and intensified biological systems and processes through SynBio, and new or highly modified versions of extant fibres and chemicals will become accessible through the advanced bioengineering capability of SynBio.  **Contact:** Colin Scott on (02) 6246 4090 or email [Colin.Scott@csiro.au](mailto:Colin.Scott@csiro.au) OR  Claudia Vickers on (07) 3833 5684 or email [Claudia.Vickers@csiro.au](mailto:Claudia.Vickers@csiro.au) |
| **Synthetic Biology 2** | **Application Domain:** Environment & Biocontrol  **Description**  SynBio has the potential to revolutionise our capacity to control our environment by modifying the resilience of species under threat, altering the capacity of insects to vector human disease or controlling populations of invasive species. Australia’s unique geographical and regulatory environments, combined with CSIRO’s world class capabilities in the environmental and biocontrol sciences, give CSIRO considerable competitive advantage in this area.  **Contact:** Owain Edwards on (08) 9333 6401 or email [Owain.Edwards@csiro.au](mailto:Owain.Edwards@csiro.au); OR  Claudia Vickers on (07) 3833 5684 or email [Claudia.Vickers@csiro.au](mailto:Claudia.Vickers@csiro.au) |

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| **Synthetic Biology 3** | **Application Domain:** Endosymbionts & Organelles  **Description**  Plastids (mitochondria and chloroplasts) and endosymbionts offer some extremely attractive features as delivery vehicles for novel ‘code’ for repurposing eukaryotic cells, including: control of gene flow, containment, low complexity (bacteria-like) genetic systems, and somatic (but not germ-line) inheritance. Moreover, free-living bacterial systems can be used as model systems to test new code in a high-throughput manner. However, tools are not yet available to re-engineer plastids and endosymbionts or to engineer obligate relationships between eukaryotes and otherwise free-living bacteria/algae.  **Contact:** Paul Bertsch on (07) 3833 5922 or email [Paul.Bertsch@csiro.au](mailto:Paul.Bertsch@csiro.au) OR  Claudia Vickers on (07) 3833 5684 or email [Claudia.Vickers@csiro.au](mailto:Claudia.Vickers@csiro.au) |
| **Synthetic Biology 4** | **Application Domain:** Health  **Description**  Health is an emerging area of interest in the Synthetic Biology FSP, and will be developed into an Application Domain in the future. PhD students are welcome to apply under this research area with synthetic biology projects focussed on Health outcomes. Projects must also align with one or more Science Domains.  **Contact:** Claudia Vickers on (07) 3833 5684 or email [Claudia.Vickers@csiro.au](mailto:Claudia.Vickers@csiro.au) |

**Application Form and CV Form are available over page. Delete the sections above before submitting the forms as directed in “How To Apply” above.**

**CSIRO Synthetic Biology Future Science Platform**

**PhD Top-Up Application Form**

**SECTION A – People/Organisations/Administrative Details**

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| **Applicant Name:** Click here to enter text. | |
| **Enrolling University:** Click here to enter text. | |
| **University Supervisor** (add extra rows for if >1 supervisor)  Name:Click here to enter text.  Email:Click here to enter text.  Website:Click here to enter text. | Primary Supervisor?  Y  N |
| **CSIRO Supervisor** (add extra rows if >1 supervisor)  Name:Click here to enter text.  Email:Click here to enter text.  Website:Click here to enter text. | Primary Supervisor?  Y  N |
| **Have you already commenced your PhD program?**  Y  N  **If yes,**  (1) PhD start date: Click here to enter text.  (2) Do you hold a scholarship that was awarded on a competitive basis?  Y  N  (3) Name of scholarship program Click here to enter text. | |
| **Are you currently applying for a PhD scholarship?**  Y  N  **If yes,**  (1) Planned PhD start date (must be by June 31st 2018): Click here to enter text.  (2) Name of scholarship program Click here to enter text. | |
| **Are you a Domestic (Australian) or International applicant?**  Domestic  International  If International, country of citizenship: Click here to enter text. | |

**SECTION B – Project Details**

*Select the relevant Application Domain(s) and Science/Technical Domain(s) that your project aligns with (see* [*https://research.csiro.au/synthetic-biology-fsp/*](https://research.csiro.au/synthetic-biology-fsp/)*)*

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| ***Application Domains:***  Environment & Biocontrol  Chemicals & Fibres  Endosymbiosis & Plastids  Health  ***Science Domains:***  Integrative Biological Modelling  Engineering Novel Biological Components  Assembling Novel Biosystems  Maximising Impact |

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| **Project title:** Click here to enter text.  **Summary of Project** *(600 words maximum). Enter the word count in the space provided.*  *Include:*   * *project aim(s)* * *importance of and need for the research* * *novelty* * *experimental approach* * *outputs, outcomes, and broader impact*   Click here to enter text.  *Word count:*  **Role ofProponents** *(250 words maximum)*  *Briefly outline the relevant expertise and role of each person involved in the project. Describe the collaborative arrangements, including planned interactions between University and CSIRO proponents. Enter the word count in the space provided.*  Click here to enter text.  *Word count:*  **Research Environment** *(250 words maximum)*  *Describe the research environment, including facilities, resources, career support, etc. available to the Applicant both within the University and CSIRO.*  Click here to enter text.  *Word count:*  **Use of Operating Funds** *(250 words maximum)*  *If you have not started your PhD, describe briefly how the operating funds will be used and what (if any) other funding is available to support the project.**If your PhD is already underway, explain what the extra funds will be used for relative to the work that is already funded for the project. Funds can be used for experimental costs, travel (including travel to present at conferences), equipment, and other expenses directly related to the student’s research.*  Click here to enter text.  *Word count:* |

## SECTION C – Certifications and Endorsements

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| ***Applicant Certification:***  I certify that:   1. All the details on this Proposal are true and complete, and not misleading to my knowledge; 2. Proper inquiries have been made to clarify any uncertainties and I am satisfied that I meet the eligibility criteria; 3. I have responsibility for the authorship and intellectual content of this Proposal, and have appropriately cited sources and acknowledged significant contributions where relevant; 4. I will notify the Host Organisation if there are any changes in my circumstances which may impact on my eligibility to participate in, or ability to perform, the project subsequent to the submission of this Proposal.   In participating in this Proposal, I consent to:   1. Provision of this Proposal under confidentiality conditions to assessors, who will remain anonymous, for evaluation purposes; and 2. CSIRO copying, modifying, and otherwise dealing with information contained in the Proposal for the purpose of conducting the funding round; and 3. CSIRO undertaking any necessary checks to assess this Proposal; and 4. CSIRO requesting referee reports from the nominated referees |
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| ***Certification by the University Supervisor(s) \****   1. I support the Application as set out in Sections A and B above; and 2. I will support the execution of the project and the career development of the Applicant; and 3. Appropriate facilities and resources are available to execute the project, including sufficient lab and office space (if necessary); and 4. I will collaborate as appropriate with all named parties ; and 5. I have obtained any approvals necessary through my School/Department/Institute/University to support the project.   *\* add signature lines as required if >1 Supervisor* |
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| ***Certification by the CSIRO Supervisor(s) \****   1. I support the Application as set out in Sections A and B above; and 2. I will support the execution of the project and the career development of the Applicant; and 3. Appropriate facilities and resources are available to execute the project, including sufficient lab and office space (if necessary); and 4. I will collaborate as appropriate with all named parties ; and 5. I have obtained any approvals necessary through my Program and Business Unit to support the project.   *\* add signature lines as required if >1 Supervisor* |
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\*\*\* **SEE OVER PAGE FOR CV TEMPLATE TO BE COMPLETED \*\*\***

**CSIRO Synthetic Biology Future Science Platform**

**PhD Top-Up: Applicant CV Form**

**Name:**

**Individual Statement** *(max. 500 words)***:**

*A statement describing:*

* *the reasons why the research area(s) you have selected is of interest to you;*
* *how your previous skills/knowledge/experience meet the requirements;*
* *an outline of your longer-term career aspirations and detail how this program will help you achieve them;*
* *any related science experience that is not included in the sections below.*

Click here to enter text.

*Word count:*

**Academic Qualifications**

*Add lines as required*

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| ***Qualification*** | ***Date*** | ***Conferring Institution & Country*** |
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**Research Experience**

*Insert details of previous research projects. This may include undergraduate projects, Honours/Masters projects, or other research experience. Do not include undergraduate practical classes. Use no more than 30 words to provide details.*

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| ***Year(s)*** | ***Duration (months)*** | ***Department/School/Institution, and Country*** | ***Details*** |
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**Employment History**

*Insert current appointment details first, followed by previous appointments. Use no more than 30 words to provide details of the position.*

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| ***Dates of Appointment*** | ***Level and Title of Appointment*** | ***Organisation and Country*** | ***Details***  *(one-sentence summary of role)* |
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**Honours and Awards**

*Details should include any other relevant information, e.g. purpose of award program, number of awardees, etc.*

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| ***Dates*** | ***Award*** | ***Conferring Organisation*** | ***Details*** |
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**Publications (if any):**

*Provide publication details in the following order: Authors, Year, Title, Journal, Volume, Pages. Indicate applicant name in* ***bold*** *in the author list, underline journal titles. Note corresponding author with an asterisk (\*) and joint first authors with a # sign. Note the source of the citation data at the top of the table. Add rows if necessary.*

**Source for citation data:**  ISI WoS  Scopus  Google Scholar

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|  | | Journal Metrics | | Citations |
| Impact Factor | Rank in field |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |

**Conference Presentations (if any)**

*Include details of any conference or significant meeting presentations*

Click here to enter text.

**Output Relative to Opportunity (where relevant):**

*Include details of research performance relative to opportunity (including, for example, amount of time spent as an active researcher; clinical, administrative, or teaching workload; relocation of an applicant; research outputs and productivity commensurate with time spent employed in other sectors). Cross-reference to Career Interruptions below if appropriate.*

Click here to enter text.

**Career Interruptions**

*Eligible career interruptions include carer, maternity or parental leave, illness, international relocation, unemployment, or non-research employment. Use a new row to describe each eligible career interruption.*

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|  | Interruption Start Date | Interruption End Date | Number of days | Type of Interruption (eg carer, maternity or parental leave, illness, international relocation, unemployment, or non-research employment) |
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| 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |

**Referees**

*List the names and contact details of two previous supervisors or academic/professional referees. Include a comment on the relationship of the person to you (e.g. supervisor for Honours project)*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Name | Institute/ Organisation | Email | Phone | Website | Relationship |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |