# Postgraduate Top-Up Scholarships

Role summary for potential applicants

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| Advertised Job Title**:** | CSIRO Postgraduate Scholarships - **Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL)** |
| Reference Number**:** | 47423 |
| 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 and the research projects on offer. 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, please prepare **ONE** document which includes all of the following:   1. your **CV/resume**; 2. the names and contact details of two previous supervisors or academic/ professional referees; 3. the reasons why the research area(s) you have selected is of interest to you; 4. how your previous skills/knowledge and experience meet the requirements; and 5. an outline of your longer-term career aspirations and detail how this program will help you achieve them.   After preparing the above 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 and education 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 **2 preferred research areas** from the list below in order of preference in the *Preference 1* and *Preference 2* fields (e.g. ***Animal Health 1; Animal Health 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.* |

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| 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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| **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 (or in some circumstances full scholarships) are being offered in 46 priority research areas.  Top-up scholarships will be the norm and 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 Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship or university equivalent commencing in that year. Exceptional students who, for a justifiable reason, do not have an RTP may be considered for a full scholarship.  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**. |

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| **Selection Criteria:** |
| ***The criteria on which the applications will be assessed are:***   1. **Quality and relevance of student project:** The primary assessment criterion for a CSIRO Postgraduate Scholarship is the quality and relevance of the project being proposed. The research must be aligned with, the advertised priority research area. 2. **Academic calibre of the student:** The quality of the student is also critical to the assessment of a scholarship and candidates must hold (or expect to gain) a relevant first class honours (or equivalent) degree from a recognised University. 3. **Availability of appropriate university supervision:** The relevance of the University supervisor’s research background and their willingness to supervise the student in collaboration with the CSIRO supervisor should also be made clear.   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.** | **Australian Animal Health Laboratory - Postgraduate Scholarships Research Areas:** |
| **Animal Health 1** | **Project Title**  Combating African swine fever: advanced molecular technologies to detect and control an emerging viral haemorrhagic disease of pigs.  **Project Description**  This project aims to identify key molecular regulators of ASF virus infection and use this knowledge - together with genome modification technologies - to develop novel diagnostics and control options.  ASF is a highly lethal and contagious disease of pigs caused by the ASF virus. It is endemic in Africa and emerged in Europe in 2007, subsequently spreading to ten countries and devastating their pork industries. There is a risk of ASF emerging in other places of the world, including Australia. This project will build on our previous research to analyse gene expression in pigs infected with ASF virus at AAHL. The main aim will be to identify and modify selected genes that affect virus replication in cell lines using novel gene knock-out technology (CRISPR/Cas9). Resulting cell lines will then be evaluated for use in diagnostics and vaccine production. There will also be scope to characterise the function of key genes in the virus replication cycle. The successful candidate will receive multidisciplinary training in advanced molecular methods, virology and immunology, as well as practical training for working in a unique biosecurity facility (<https://www.csiro.au/en/Research/Facilities/AAHL>).  **Contact:** David Williams on (03) 5227 5364 or email [D.Williams@csiro.au](mailto:D.Williams@csiro.au) |
| **Animal Health 2** | **Project Title**  Development of an evaluation pathway for diagnostic tests to be fit for purpose early in infectious disease emergence  **Project Description**  CSIRO’s Australian Animal Health Laboratory and the University of Melbourne are seeking an applicant for a PhD position to look at the rapid development and appraisal of diagnostic tests when data is sparse and there is an absence of a gold standard test against which to compare. The student will be working with partners in the newly established [OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science](http://fvas.unimelb.edu.au/research/research-centres/oie-dx/about). Applicants will be expected to have an aptitude for quantitative epidemiology, background in a relevant discipline (veterinary or public health epidemiology, microbiology, applied mathematics and/or computer science), have experience in one of the scientific coding languages (i.e. R, C++, Python, Java, Matlab, etc) and be eligible for the Australian Research Training Program Scholarship (stipend of AUD 27 000) with an additional top-up of AUD 7 000 is available.  The project will involve development of methods for the appraisal of diagnostics given sparse data and the absence of gold standards, including developing a single integrated Bayesian latent class model that can account for repeated measures, organisational hierarchy, non-constant sensitivity and specificity, pooling and a paucity of particularly appropriate prior literature. The theoretical elements developed will be applied to case studies of emerging infectious diseases and zoonoses such as Hendra virus, MERS and Q fever.  **Contact:** Kim Halpin on (03) 5227 5510 or email [Kim.Halpin@csiro.au](mailto:Kim.Halpin@csiro.au) |