

PhD Scholarship in Statistics at the University of Wollongong

Applications are invited for a full-time PhD scholarship in the Centre for Statistical and Survey Methodology (CSSM) to undertake research on statistical quantitative genetics, which aims to link phenotypic variation for complex traits to its underlying genetic basis in order to better understand and predict change within agricultural systems. The scholarship is funded by a University Postgraduate Award and the Grains Research and Development Corporation's co-investment into capacity building in Biometrics. The successful applicant will work in a vibrant and growing research centre, which comprises 17 academic statisticians, including four professors and over 20 PhD students.

This project will investigate model selection tools and strategies for linking whole genomic profiles with complex traits in crops of commercial significance for Australian agriculture. The project will develop new approaches for genomic selection by bringing together many emerging areas in genetics, genomics and statistics.

The project will involve Professor Brian Cullis at the University of Wollongong, Professor Ari Verbyla at the University of Adelaide and Professor Robin Thompson at Queen Mary College London.

The student involved in the project will develop skills in the development and implementation of innovative statistical methodology, extensive use of simulations, and analysis of real data.

The scholarship includes a tax-free stipend for three years that is currently worth a minimum of \$27,500 per year for three years. There may be opportunities for overseas travel to collaborate with researchers in the UK.

This scholarship is open to Australian residents and international applicants. Applicants should have an Honours Class 1 degree in Statistics, or an equivalent qualification, by the end of 2010, strong research potential and be able to commence by the end of February 2011.

Applications should be made through the university's website: www.uow.edu.au/future/postgrad/apply/research/index.html.

When you make an application through the website please also send an email to anica@uow.edu.au letting her know that you have applied.

Closing date: 17 October 2010.

For more information on the project, please contact Professor Brian Cullis, email bcullis@uow.edu.au.

For information about CSSM see: cssm.uow.edu.au/people/index.html