

NHMRC IDEAS Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma Scholarship

SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOSCIENCE,
UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, NSW, AUSTRALIA

Students are invited to apply for a Doctor of Philosophy scholarship in Cancer Cell and Molecular Biology in the project 'Understanding the mutational landscape of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma'.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship is being offered by the University of Wollongong and will contribute to a larger study funded in part by a NHMRC Ideas grant. The overall aim of this study is to decipher the driver mutations and molecular pathways that promote metastasis in cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma (cSCC) by performing and integrating whole genome and RNA-sequencing data to facilitate the stratification of potential clinically important genes (biomarkers). The specific aims of this PhD scholarship are to develop patient-derived 3-dimensional culture and *in vivo* model systems for functional genomics analyses of key genetic variants and for drug response profiling against druggable targets. As this is part of a larger collaborative project the student will be expected to interact proactively with the team of biologists, clinicians and bio-informaticians working together on-site at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute (<https://www.ihmri.org.au/>, located on the University of Wollongong campus), at the Sydney Head Neck Cancer Institute and at the National Cancer Centre Singapore. Through this network, students will gain experience in primary tissue culture, cSCC biology and molecular biology techniques. There will be opportunities to develop interests in bioinformatics.

STIPEND

The scholarship is for three (3.0) years full-time for doctoral candidates and two (2) years for Master of Philosophy with a stipend of \$AUD 28,092 pa (tax free and indexed annually).

CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION

Applications are invited from

- Students (including current Honours students) who will be commencing their Doctor of Philosophy at the University of

Wollongong from **Session 2 (July) 2020 pending government regulations relating to COVID-19.**

- Applicants are expected to commit to full-time study and have the capacity to be based at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute.
- Both domestic and international prospective students are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should hold an Honours 1 or high 2A (or equivalent) undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline or the equivalent combination of professional experience and academic qualifications. Experience with primary tissue culture would be highly desirable.

APPLICATION

Please format the application as a single document (pdf or word doc) that includes a cover letter outlining relevant experience and research interests, a Curriculum Vitae, a copy of academic transcript, and contact details for 2 recent referees.

Submit application or for any enquiries email Professor Marie Ranson: mranson@uow.edu.au

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Closing Date: Open until the position is filled.