

PhD scholarship

Fish Futures: cultural geographies of freshwater ecosystems

School of Geography and Sustainable Communities

Australian Centre for Culture, Environment, Society and Space

The University of Wollongong

Fish Futures: cultural geographies of freshwater ecosystems

The University of Wollongong is offering a PhD scholarship in the field of human geography on the theme of cultures of nature and freshwater ecosystems. The scholarship is part of a large multi-disciplinary research project 'Fish Futures: reimagining freshwater ecosystem management in Aotearoa' (<https://www.fishfutures.co.nz>). This project considers the ecological, social and cultural implications of environmental change for freshwater fish, their ecosystems and human communities. It recognises that fish help people sustain their cultural identities, and care and connect with the natural world. The research programme is developing innovative approaches for multi-species fish management that are underpinned by knowledge of climate change, sociocultural values, and future species dynamics. The aim is to build shared understanding, respect and reconciliation of different values for fishes.

The PhD will contribute to this larger research project through an Australian-based study. As the successful candidate you will work with the support of your supervisors to shape a research project that complements this wider project to understand how freshwater fish are valued and managed. You will use qualitative social research skills to undertake original field-based research. Ideally you will have experience and/or interest in one or more of these fields: social and cultural geography; environmental humanities; Indigenous studies; environmental management.

The project will be supervised by Associate Professor Leah Gibbs (https://scholars.uow.edu.au/display/leah_gibbs) in the School of Geography and Sustainable Communities and ACCESS (Australian Centre for Culture, Environment, Society and Space). The project provides generous financial resources to support fieldwork and other project costs. The PhD scholar will be supported through both the broader 'Fish Futures' project team and the research programs of ACCESS (<https://www.uow.edu.au/social-sciences/research/access/>).

For questions about the research project, please contact A/Prof. Leah Gibbs (leah@uow.edu.au). For further information about studying as a Higher Degree Research student at UOW, please see the university's online information (<https://www.uow.edu.au/study/postgraduates/>).

Scholarship Value

The successful candidate will receive a stipend of \$29,863 (2023 rate) per year, indexed annually for the three year duration of the award.

Entry Requirements

To be eligible, a student must have completed a Bachelor degree in human geography, sociology, humanities, environmental management, conservation, or a related discipline

with Honours, or be regarded by UOW as having an equivalent level of attainment. Ideally you will be ready to commence study in Wollongong from February 2023.

Nationality

Both domestic and international students are eligible and encouraged to apply. For international applicants, a fee waiver may be available but is not guaranteed.

Application process

As an applicant you should submit to Associate Professor Leah Gibbs (leah@uow.edu.au):

- a letter outlining your thematic interest in relation to the project, motivation and profile (maximum 2 pages);
- your CV;
- relevant academic transcripts; and
- a relevant sample of your academic writing (e.g. a working paper, a thesis chapter) .

After approval from Dr Gibbs, applicants will then need to proceed with a full Higher Degree Research (HDR) admission application, available at:

<https://www.uow.edu.au/apply/index.html>

Application process

Closing date: 21 October 2022