



PhD Scholarship: Pollinator foraging preferences in orchards using molecular methods.

Over 50 different agricultural commodities benefit from insect pollination in Australia, yet we have little knowledge of the contribution of wild insect pollinators to these services. This project aims to identify the resources used by insect pollinating flower visitors using molecular methods.

The project is part of a \$5.2 million grant awarded to RIRDC in collaboration with the Universities of New England, Sydney, Adelaide and other industry partners. This particular component of the project will be based at the University of New England (UNE), Armidale, NSW under the supervision of Dr. Romina Rader and other collaborators at UNE (Dr. Rose Andrew), ANU (Dr. Saul Cunningham) and USC (Prof. Helene Wallace).

We are seeking applicants with an interest and background in molecular ecology, landscape genetics, entomology, ecology or related field to conduct a 3-year PhD project. The successful candidate will investigate the relationship between pollen transferred and fruit quantity / quality in a number of high value horticultural crops. In addition, the candidate will undertake analytical and statistical work and disseminate research results to industry and the broader scientific community.

An interest in working alongside industry, a willingness to work in remote areas and the capacity to work both independently and as part of a team are important qualities. The applicant must be proficient in spoken and written English, have a current driver's license. The scholarships are open to Australian or New Zealand citizens as well as international applicants (international applicants will need to discuss fee waiver scholarships with Romina Rader). Selection of applicants will be based on merit. The successful PhD candidate will receive operating funds up to 10K, a new computer and access to conference funding.

Scholarship applications for candidates are due on the 28 January 2017, or until filled.

To apply or enquire: Please send an email to Romina Rader (rrader@une.edu.au) with a statement of your background and interest in the project, your Curriculum Vitae and any publications.