

PhD position in Amphibian Conservation in Australia

Like working with wildlife? Want to help save declining Australian frogs from disease? Interested in modeling, disease ecology, reproduction, or genetics?

The One Health Research Group at James Cook University in Townsville, Queensland, Australia is looking to support one PhD project to investigate and model the effects of disease on reproduction, courting behaviour, and population persistence in declining frog species.

The project is funded through Australian Research Council's funding scheme, and the PhD scholar will be advised by Drs Lee Skerratt, Laura Brannelly and Lee Berger among others. The project will be based in Townsville, Queensland.

One aim of the project will be to develop a population viability analysis that will be useful as a conservation tool for determining priority of management techniques in declining amphibian species. The successful scholar will be part of a larger project and have the opportunity to assist with field work (based in Victorian alps) and/or live animal laboratory work (based at JCU) to collect the data to be used in the model. The model will be used to assess which host factors may be important in maintaining population size and influence population rebound.

Other aims of this project might include identifying genes under selection within wild populations, and investigating the effects of disease on population genetics.

To be eligible:

Expertise needed: Applicants must have some modeling experience and/or organization of large data sets, as well a deep interest in analysis of population data. Applicants must have experience with biological research such as ecology, herpetology, or molecular biology. Skills or interest in population genetics is an advantage.

Scholarship applications are competitive. Applicants must have first-class Honours, Master's by research or equivalent. Peer reviewed publications are beneficial. Post Graduate Research Scholarships for stipends are available through James Cook University, for which the applicant will need to apply separately.

Please submit a CV, cover letter and contact information for two referees to Dr. Laura Brannelly laura.brannelly@jcu.edu.au by 10 August 2018.

For more information about our research team please visit our website: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/college-of-public-health-medical-and-veterinary-sciences/public-health-and-tropical-medicine/one-health-research-group2>

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pg/onehealthresearchgroup>>

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The OHRG is in The Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability
Science: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/tess>