



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



PhD Scholarship in Animal Breeding (AGBU, Armidale, NSW)

The Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU), located at the University of New England (UNE, Armidale, NSW, Australia) is a joint unit of NSW DPI and UNE. Its charter is do research and development into systems for genetic evaluation and breeding that will contribute to the improvement of productivity and product quality in Australia's livestock industries (see <http://agbu.une.edu.au>).

AGBU have been awarded a PhD scholarship from the Australian Pork CRC for a suitable student. The scholarship is attached to a project located at Australia's largest pork producing company, QAF Meat Industries (Corowa, NSW, Australia). The project is aimed at investigating aspects of sow feed intake and its impact on reproductive performance and longevity. Extensive data collection includes measures for feed intake as a gilt and lactating sow, repeated measures of sow body weight and composition, along with measures for production and reproductive performance. Data on ambient temperature and physiological status are also collected. This project provides ample opportunity for a PhD student to perform a range of data analyses that will provide information towards improved breeding goals for the Australian pig industry.

AGBU is seeking a student who is eligible to enrol as a PhD student at UNE (see <http://une.edu.au/research-services/pgstudy/prospectivestudents> for requirements). The successful applicant will have achieved well in statistics and/or animal breeding units (quantitative genetics) at a tertiary level. A flair for analytical thinking and attention to detail along with computing and data analysis skills is highly desirable. Writing skills that facilitate organised and comprehensive documentation of results are important. While some knowledge of pig production would be beneficial, it is not essential.

This scholarship has a generous stipend of \$AUD 28 000 per annum, tax free, for a three year period. The initial application period will close June 30, 2007. Non-Australian residents might have to find their own funding for University fees (see: <http://une.edu.au/imp/courses/sciences/postgrad.php>). For more information on this scholarship opportunity, contact Dr Kim Bunter: Phone (02) 6773 3788 or Email: kbunter2@une.edu.au.