

PhD Scholarship in Plant Molecular Biology / Physiology / Biochemistry

CENTRE FOR NATIVE FLORICULTURE, SCHOOL OF LAND, CROP AND FOOD SCIENCES

Excellent PhD opportunity for a motivated individual interested in plant biotechnology and floriculture.

The Centre for Native Floriculture (CNF) is based at the University of Queensland's Gatton Campus within the School of Land, Crop and Food Sciences. The CNF's research is focused on identifying and developing new floricultural products. The CNF was established in 2004, and continues to facilitate the development of Queensland's floricultural industries through development of new products, increasing people's skills and capabilities within the floriculture industries, and training students at various levels to underpin future development of these industries.

The Role: We seek a PhD scholar (APAI) funded by an ARC Linkage grant awarded to Dr Dion Harrison and Professor Daryl Joyce with the Centre for Native Floriculture at The University of Queensland, in collaboration with Aussie Colours Pty Ltd, an ornamental plant breeding and biotechnology commercialisation company, and Dr Kevin Davies at Crop & Food Research in Palmerston North, New Zealand. The project will be based at The University of Queensland, Gatton Campus. However, there will be opportunities to visit and conduct research in Dr Davies's lab in New Zealand. The project focus is on Betalain pigments which are only found in a small number of plant species. The aims are to understand the roles that these pigments play in responding to environmental stresses, and to clone novel pigment synthesis genes for the future modification of flower and foliage colour in ornamental plants.

The person: Applicants are required to have a first class or high 2A honours degree, or equivalent, in plant biology, preferably with a background in plant molecular biology, biochemistry or physiology. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of Australia, or citizens of New Zealand, and must also be eligible for admission to the PhD program at The University of Queensland. Applicants may be eligible for a relocation allowance for the successful applicant and any dependants.

Remuneration: The remuneration package will be \$25,627 p.a. tax-free APAI stipend for three years.

Contact: To discuss the project and PhD position please contact Dr Dion Harrison, telephone (07) 5460 1313 or email dion.harrison@uq.edu.au.

To apply, please send a cover letter and curriculum vitae outlining your interest and suitability for this position to: Dr Dion Harrison, Centre for Native Floriculture, The University of Queensland, Gatton, Qld 4343, or email dion.harrison@uq.edu.au.

Applications close 23rd March 2009.
Reference No 3018463.