Climate change and hybridisation in clownfishes

In collaboration with the Visual Ecology and Riginos Labs we are excited to offer a PhD scholarship to examine climate change impacts on hybridisation in clownfishes under the supervision of Dr. JP Hobbs, Prof. Cynthia Riginos and Dr. Karen Cheney.

The scholarship is funded by the Australian Government and The University of Queensland and provides a living stipend of AUS $28,092 per annum tax free (2020 rate, indexed annually). The scholarship is open to both domestic and international students, and overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) is provided for international students. Students will be expected to start as soon as possible.

**Project description**

Coral reefs are the world’s most biodiverse marine ecosystem. However, this biodiversity is threatened by escalating human impacts. Theoretical models predict biodiversity loss due to impacts on evolutionary processes, including hybridisation, but this threat remains untested and unmanaged. Using clownfishes as a model group, the PhD student will investigate: 1. whether climate change increases hybridisation; and 2, the genetic consequences of hybridisation.

The PhD student will lead a global project on clownfishes with access to international collaborators and an extensive collection of samples. There will be opportunities for the student to develop their own research agenda and join research expeditions. The student will work in a leading molecular laboratory and join a multidisciplinary team that studies behaviour, sensory neurobiology and ecology.

Masters, first class honours or equivalent with a background in evolutionary biology and/or molecular ecology, especially population genomics. Experience in statistics and bioinformatics (e.g. R, Python, bash) is preferred. Experience with fishes or marine organisms is not required.

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Please contact Jean-Paul Hobbs (jp.hobbs@uq.edu.au) for further details. Expressions of interest will close April 30 and shortlisted candidates will be invited to apply to UQ.

For eligibility and scholarship details, please see:
https://scholarships.uq.edu.au/scholarship/earmarked-scholarships-support-category-1-project-grants

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