

PhD Scholarship: Molecular factors in plant-microbe associations

\$26,000 pa tax-free

University of New England (UNE) and Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The School of Science and Technology (Molecular and Cellular Biology), UNE, seeks a motivated and qualified PhD candidate to research the molecular factors involved in fungal pathogenicity towards cotton.

Black root rot, is a fungal root disease, which affects a variety of plants and reduces the yield of agricultural products. It is a recognised threat to the cotton industry. The aim of this project is to study the molecular aspect of the interaction between the fungal pathogen and the plant.

Major skills and concepts practiced in the project

- Develop experimental strategy, planning and performing research work.
- Handling pathogenic fungi at the laboratory (PC2 laboratory skills).
- General molecular biology and fungal (eukaryotic) molecular techniques.
- Fungal culturing techniques.
- Plants handling under laboratory, including sterile, conditions.
- Assays in fungal-plant interactions.
- Fungal transformation and genetic manipulation.
- Light and possibly electron microscopy.
- Possibly, protein extraction and handling.

A PhD scholarship is currently available (student to start on **1st February 2008 the latest**). The student will be based at Armidale, NSW. This scholarship provides an operating budget of \$18,000 over 3 years, during which time the student will communicate the results to the scientific, extension and farming communities. It gives the student access to industry leaders and facilities, an academic team environment, international conference opportunities, professional development, networking and industry employment prospects.

Applicants must hold a Class 1 or 2A honours (or equivalent) degree in a suitable discipline, and be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia. UNE and the CCC-CRC keep the right not to fill in the position.

Further information: contact Lily Pereg-Gerk at lperegge@une.edu.au or 02-6773 2708.

Applicants should send a letter outlining their suitability for the position, accompanied by a brief CV (including contact details of two referees) and a copy of their academic transcripts to Dr Lily Pereg-Gerk, Molecular and Cellular Biology, School of Science and Technology, University of New England, Armidale 2351 or lperegge@une.edu.au or fax-02 6773 3267.