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SCEM: Springs and their Management to Mitigate Anthropogenic and Climate Change Impacts

School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics

Scholarship code: 2019-094

About the project

Western Sydney University is a leader nationally and internationally in the area of surface and groundwater research and is equipped with the state of the art laboratories and other research infrastructure. The University actively works with industry groups such as Sydney Water and international institutes and research organisations in Asia and Africa. The University is currently leading over 10 research and consulting projects within Australia and overseas.

We are now offering a research scholarship to a highly motivated PhD candidate to work within our research group addressing "Springs and their management to mitigate anthropogenic and climate change impacts." This project is part of the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) between several Indian Universities and Western Sydney University.

The springs are connected with water security in many communities as they are the main source of drinking water for both urban and rural areas. This PhD project will focus on understanding the recharging processes of springs in the Himalayan region and their management from a range of perspectives (hydrologic, social, economic and cultural) and will identify strategies and policy options that will contribute to the sustainable management of springs and groundwater as applied to both India and Australia.

The project will be based at Western Sydney University's Kingswood campus and includes spending considerable amounts of time at some of the Indian Universities such as GB Pant University Agriculture and Technology [http://www.gbpuat.ac.in/] , Pantnagar, India. The project provides an exciting opportunity to carryout field tests and collection of field data both in India and Australia. Also, the candidate will be able to develop sustainable groundwater management strategies incorporating changing climatic conditions.

At Western Sydney University, the candidate will be working closely with Dr. Dharma Hagare and Prof. Basant Maheshwari. At Indian Universities, the candidate will be working with Prof. Jyothi Prasad of GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology.

What does the scholarship provide?

- Domestic candidates will receive a tax-free stipend of $35,000 per annum for up to 3 years to support living costs, supported by the Research Training Program (RTP) Fee Offset.
- International candidates will receive a tax-free stipend of $35,000 per annum for up to 3 years to support living costs. Those with a strong track record will be eligible for a tuition fee waiver.
- Support for conference attendance, fieldwork and additional costs as approved by the School.

International candidates are required to hold an Overseas Student Health Care (OSHC) [https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/apply/admissions/overseas_students_health_cover] insurance policy for the duration their study in Australia. This cost is not covered by the scholarship.

Eligibility criteria

We welcome applicants from a range of backgrounds, who are keen to apply their skills to key issues related to groundwater flow and management. In particular, the project is suitable for candidates with strong interests in groundwater hydrology and modelling, natural springs, climate change, connecting groundwater science with people, working with a range of stakeholders and sustainable management of groundwater.

The successful applicant should:

- hold qualifications and experience equal to one of the following (i) an Australian First Class Bachelor (Honours) degree, (ii) coursework Masters with at least 25% research component, (iii) Research Masters degree, or (iv) equivalent overseas qualifications.
- demonstrate strong academic performance in subjects relevant to groundwater flow, groundwater hydrology, environmental science and modelling of groundwater flow.
- have an understanding of the importance of climate change and sustainability concepts.
- have good analytical and mathematical skills.
- be willing to work in Indian villages and with local researchers for 2-3 months per year for field research.
- be willing to learn techniques that are necessary for collecting and analysing field data.
- be enthusiastic and highly motivated to undertake further study at an advanced level.

International applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency [https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/apply/admissions/entry_requirements] .

How to apply

1. Contact Doctor Dharma Hagare (d.hagare@westernsydney.edu.au [mailto:d.hagare@westernsydney.edu.au]) to discuss your eligibility, the project requirements and your intention to apply.

2. Review the research scholarships frequently asked questions [https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/graduate_research_school/grs/scholarships/current_scholarships/frequently_asked_questions] .

3. Submit an online application for admission [https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/study/how-to-apply/higher-degree-research-candidates/how-to-apply-for-the-doctor-of-philosophy-and-professional-dr.html] .

4. Complete the project scholarship application form (PDF, 89.74 KB) [https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1465369/Project_Scholarship_Application_Form.pdf] .

5. Compile your CV, contact information for two referees and a one- or two-page proposal stating how your research interests align with the project aims.

6. Submit your scholarship application form and any supporting documentation to the Graduate Research School as follows:

- Use the email subject line: **Application_2019_094_SCEM**
- Submit to grs.scholarships@westernsydney.edu.au [mailto:grs.scholarships@westernsydney.edu.au]
- All attached documents must be submitted as PDF.
- In the body of your email, include your full name, your student ID (if you are a current or previous Western Sydney University student) and the full title of the scholarship.

Applicants who do not submit an online application for admission will not be considered.

Incomplete applications or applications that do not conform to the above requirements will not be considered.

Please contact the Graduate Research School via email at grs.scholarships@westernsydney.edu.au [mailto:grs.scholarships@westernsydney.edu.au] for more information.

Applications close 31 July 2019

**Applications close at 11.59pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST).*

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