

GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL

[HTTPS://WWW.WESTERNSYDNEY.EDU.AU/GRADUATE_RESEARCH]

SSH: Sustainable Management of Groundwater Resources

School of Science and Health

Scholarship code: 2019-095

About the project

Western Sydney University is a leader nationally and internationally in the area of surface and groundwater research and 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 with University's leading researchers in water resources management area, particularly addressing "Participatory Groundwater Monitoring and Management." This project is part of the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) between several Indian Universities and Western Sydney University.

This project will examine aspects of participatory groundwater monitoring and management at the village level within the selected catchments. The PhD candidate will collect field data and develop framework for outscaling [MARVI approach \[http://www.marvi.org.in/\]](http://www.marvi.org.in/). Further, the candidate will develop community based strategies for sustainable management of groundwater based on local socio-cultural and physical environments. The candidate will have relevant engineering, agricultural or environmental science degree at Master level or equivalent.

The project will be based at Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury campus and includes spending considerable amounts of time at some of the Indian Universities such as Indian Institute of Technology, West Bengal, India. The project provides an exciting opportunity to carryout field tests and collection of field data both in India and Australia and work with village communities and local researchers and stakeholders.

The candidate will be working closely with Prof. Basant Maheshwari and Dr. Dharma Hagare.

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 \(OSHC\) \[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/apply/admissions/overseas_students_health_cover\]](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/apply/admissions/overseas_students_health_cover) insurance policy for the duration of their study in Australia. This cost is not covered by the scholarship.

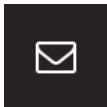
Eligibility criteria

We welcome applicants from a range of backgrounds (engineering, agriculture, environment science and social ecology), who are keen to apply their skills to key issues related to groundwater management, livelihood improvement of village communities and sustainable use of groundwater. In particular, the project is suitable for candidates with strong interests in 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, sustainability, environmental management and groundwater flow modelling.
- ▶ have an understanding of the importance of socio-economic, cultural and sustainability concepts in groundwater management.
- ▶ have good critical thinking and mathematical skills.
- ▶ be willing to learn techniques that are necessary for collecting and analysing water and socio-economic data.
- ▶ willing to work in Indian villages and with local researchers for 2-3 months per year for field research.
- ▶ be enthusiastic and highly motivated to undertake further study at an advanced level.

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



How to apply

1. Contact Professor Basant Maheshwari (b.maheshwari@westernsydney.edu.au [mailto:b.maheshwari@westernsydney.edu.au]) to discuss your eligibility, career goals and research experience.
2. Review the research scholarships [frequently asked questions](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/graduate_research_school/grs/scholarships/current_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) [<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) [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_095_SSH**
 - ▶ 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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