

This template has been developed as a guide to information that may be included on the website to advertise a scholarship linked to a specific project. Please note that not all areas of the template may be applicable, please remove these areas.

<p>Title: Faunal habitat use and the impacts of disturbance (biodiversity and conservation)</p>
<p>Type: Living allowance, operational/logistical project funds, and scholarship top-up (competitive)</p>
<p>Value & Duration: TGRS or APA scholarships provide AUD \$26,288 per annum (2016 rate) living allowance for 3 years, with a possible 6 month extension. This rate is indexed annually. The linked Ph.D. research project also includes substantial operational funds and logistical support, funded by a 5-year Australian Research Council grant to Prof. BW Brook (ARC Australian Laureate Fellow). An additional top-up award of \$4,000 pa will also be considered for outstanding applicants, as will some support for the costs of relocation by non-Tasmanian candidates, judged on merit and need.</p>
<p>Closing date: Applications close on 31st August 2016. (The student must be enrolled in the 2016 calendar year.)</p>
<p>The Research Project: This project, offered within the Dynamics of Eco-Evolutionary Patterns (D.E.E.P.) research group, aims to explore faunal habitat use and the impacts of disturbance on population dynamics and distribution. Candidate projects under this theme will involve a fieldwork component and compilation/analysis of existing information (e.g., historical databases) to explore and determine threats to faunal biodiversity caused by regional and global change. The aim is to link these projects to policy (decision making) and actions undertaken by conservation and management agencies. It will also include collaboration with organisations working on projects involving on-ground habitat and population management. Some of the key questions we wish to investigate as part of this theme include: —Exploring links between habitat, other animals and other predictors on vehicle collision risk —Bird use (corvids and raptors) of roadside carrion and relationship to habitat and distance to roads —Influence of forest management on wildlife (e.g., removal of logs and coarse-woody debris) —Frequency of habitat use by animals (using camera traps and direct sampling) and response to disturbance events in tall eucalypt forests, such as logging, fire and tourism. All of these research questions are potential PhD projects and will use Tasmania as a case-study. However, there is also scope for projects that involve a combination of these, or related ideas.</p>
<p>Eligibility: The following eligibility criteria apply to this scholarship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scholarship is open to Australian (domestic) candidates and to international candidates. • The PhD must be undertaken on a full-time basis. • Applicants must already have been awarded a first class Honours degree or hold equivalent qualifications or relevant and substantial research experience in an appropriate sector. • Applicants must be able to demonstrate strong research and analytical skills. <p>Candidates from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Knowledge and skills that are particularly desirable, and will be ranked highly, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological, evolutionary or conservation biology theory and practice (including fieldwork) • At least basic experience in ecological modelling, and statistical packages such as R • Database management and high-level computer skills • Work well in a team environment

Funding:

This PhD scholarship is funded by the University of Tasmania, with project support and top-up supported by an ARC *Australian Laureate Fellowship* project grant to Prof. BW Brook.

Application Process:

Applicants should complete the application via the University of Tasmania's admissions system and scholarship section (see How to Apply on the [Graduate Research Future Students](#) page) and indicate under '**Scholarship Support: Living Allowance**' that you wish to be considered for a '**UTAS merit-based scholarship for a living allowance**'

More information:

Contact Prof. Barry Brook (e: barry.brook@utas.edu.au; p: 0420 958 400) and visit <http://ecological-dynamics.org> for more information.