



PHD OPPORTUNITY

THE MOVEMENT ECOLOGY OF THE EUROPEAN RED FOX IN URBAN AUSTRALIA

The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (HIE) at Western Sydney University, Australia, is seeking a highly motivated PhD candidate to research the ecology of the European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) in urban Australia.

The PhD candidate will be supervised by Dr Justin Welbergen (HIE), Prof Chris Dickman (University of Sydney) and Dr John Martin (Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney).

The project has sufficient grant funding to cover field equipment and operational costs. However, the candidate must apply for an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) and/or an UWS Postgraduate Research Award (UWSPRA) to cover for his/her scholarship.

- Interested candidates should forward their CV, together with a short outline of how their experience and vision will fit with the project, to Dr Justin Welbergen (j.welbergen@westernsydney.edu.au), by 2 October 2015
- **APA & UWSPRA Applications are due on 16 October 2015**
- The project is anticipated to commence in first semester 2016

ABOUT THE PROJECT

European red foxes occur on farms and in national parks, but unbeknownst to most people, they also live beside us in our cities and suburbs.

Foxes are listed as a Key Threatening Process to biodiversity in Australia. To date, few studies have assessed urban fox ecology, and little is known about the broader implications of foxes for their prey species in human-altered landscapes.

This project focusses on the movement ecology of foxes in urban environments to address these gaps, and thus enable a better understanding and informed management of this species in Australia. Methods will include, but are not limited to, GPS telemetry, camera trapping, and scat analysis, across an urban to natural landuse gradient (Sydney CBD to Blue Mountains NP).

WHAT DOES THE SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDE?

- » Successful domestic students will receive a tax free stipend of \$25,392 per annum and a funded place in the doctoral degree.
- » Successful international students will receive a tax free stipend of \$25,392 per annum. Those with a strong track record may receive a fee waiver.

CRITERIA

The successful applicant should:

- » have an excellent academic record relevant to the research proposed
- » hold qualifications and experience equal to an Australian First Class Bachelor Honours degree, Masters of Research or equivalent overseas qualifications and/or scholarly publications in peer reviewed journals.
- » be enthusiastic and highly motivated to undertake further study at an advanced level

IMPORTANT

Please note that the scholarship is dependent on successful application for an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) Scholarship or a Western Sydney University Postgraduate Research Award (UWSPRA).

You must apply for an APA by October 16 2015. Information and application for APA scholarships is at:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/graduate_research_school/grs/scholarships