



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment



NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub  
The University of Queensland  
PhD Top-up Scholarship Application

**Quantitative modelling approaches for environmental decision-making  
in the face of multiple uncertain threats.**

The University of Queensland (UQ) is offering a PhD Top-Up Scholarship under the NESP Threatened Species Recovery (TSR) Hub for an exceptional quantitative student to work on novel statistical and mathematical approaches to inform the management of threatened species.

The Top-up will provide successful candidates with an additional \$6,000 per year, on top of their PhD Scholarship stipend from other sources, plus some support funds for travel and attendance at Hub workshops and conferences. Scholarships will be annually renewed for three years, contingent on satisfactory progress.

This top up is part of NESP Project 2.3 which focusses on the conservation management of the unique species of Christmas Island. The project will apply decision analysis approaches to the management of the threatened Christmas Island Flying-Fox (CIFF) in the face of considerable population uncertainty and multiple potential threats. In particular we are interested in mathematical and statistical modelling approaches for complex systems such as Bayesian Networks.

The project will be supported by information from the comprehensive research program that is already underway on the ecology and health of CIFF under the auspices of the Western Sydney University, the Taronga Conservation Society, CSIRO, and Christmas Island National Park.

The candidate will need a strong quantitative background with a strong knowledge of statistical and/or mathematical modelling and have a good understanding of, or a strong desire to learn, approaches for environmental decision-making. Expert on flying-foxes is not necessary but understanding of applying quantitative approaches to ecological systems would be beneficial.

### **Eligibility**

The NESP TSR Hub PhD Top-up scholarships are available to domestic and international students in receipt of an Australian Postgraduate Award or other funded scholarship and undertaking their PhD study at UQ. The outcomes of the top-up scholarship will be on condition of the recipient receiving an unconditional admission to the University and a full scholarship.

Please apply online at <http://jobs.uq.edu.au/caw/en/job/501038/research-scholar-top-up>. All applicants must supply the following documents: Cover letter and Curriculum Vitae including transcripts. **Applications close on 31st of October 2017.** The dates for the next round of applications for domestic scholarships at UQ are the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2018 and for international scholarships the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2018. More details on these scholarships can be found at <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/apply>.

## **Enquiries**

For any enquiries and to submit an expression of interest please contact Dr Eve McDonald-Madden, Project Leader at [e.mcdonaldmadden@uq.edu.au](mailto:e.mcdonaldmadden@uq.edu.au). Visit [www.mcdonaldmaddenlab.com](http://www.mcdonaldmaddenlab.com) for further information on Dr McDonald-Maddens Lab.

## **More information about the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub**

The NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub is supported by funding through the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Programme (NESP), and matched by contributions from 10 of the country's leading academic institutions and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

Led by Professor Brendan Wintle (University of Melbourne), and supported by Professor David Lindenmayer (Australian National University), Dr Sarah Legge, Professor Stephen Garnett and Professor John Woinarski (Charles Darwin University), and Associate Professor Martine Maron (University of Queensland), the research team of 48 includes some of the world's foremost conservation science experts.

The Hub works closely with more than two-dozen collaborating organisations, including management agencies and conservation groups, to ensure Threatened Species Recovery Hub research has an on-ground impact in threatened species management.

It brings together leading ecological experts to work on the outlook for Australia's threatened species and ecological communities by:

- Developing better, more efficient responses to threats
- Testing novel strategies for rescuing species on the brink
- Developing strategies to provide an early warning about extinction risk
- Ensuring the best tools and most up-to-date information to monitor conservation status
- Involving communities in threatened species conservation and sharing the benefits of healthy ecosystems.

For further information on the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub please visit the website at [www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au](http://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au) .