EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL)
PhD Scholarship
$25,000 per annum

Australian Potato Research Program - harnessing sustainable potato production through new microbial products

In collaboration with Flinders University and the University of Tasmania, HAL will offer a PhD scholarship valued at $25,000 per annum for up to 3 years. The scholarship has an additional operating budget of at least $20,000 per year to work on the HAL-funded Potato Research Program. Other research collaborators in this program are the Department of Agriculture Victoria.

Project description
This project aims at identifying and developing actinobacterial endophyte based microbial products to enhance the productivity of the potato industry in an environmentally sustainable manner. The PhD candidate will be involved in specific aspects of the project that include: developing new methods for the isolation and cultivation of actinomycetes endophytes; screening and development of biological control agents against diseases of potatoes, and identifying molecular mechanisms of action and pathogen diagnostics. There will be scope to take effective strains into field trials.

Candidates will be expected to have:
1. An Honours (H1A or H2A) degree, Master's degree (Distinction average) or equivalent in a relevant Life Science discipline
2. Ability & experience to work both independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team.
3. Strong written and oral communication skills.
4. A commitment to applied research and an interest in supporting the development of Australia’s potato industry.

The student will be enrolled at Flinders University, Adelaide, but the position will require some travel to Tasmania for the collection of samples and interaction with the project team. The students will be supervised at Flinders by Professor Chris Franco, who has over 25 years of experience in actinobacterial research and has successfully developed endophyte applications for improved crop yields, and co-supervised by Associate Professor Calum Wilson, Tasmania Institute of Agriculture Research, University of Tasmania, a plant pathologist with expertise in disease control of potatoes. The student will work in the newly commissioned Health Sciences Building housing the Actinobacterial Research laboratory of the Dept. of Medical Biotechnology, Flinders Medical Science and Technology.

Applications
To lodge your Expression of Interest and for further information regarding this scholarship, organisational environment and other aspects of pursuing a PhD at Flinders University, please contact: Prof Chris Franco, Head, Department of Medical Biotechnology, School of Medicine, Flinders University, Bedford Park, SA 5001
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