HAWKESBURY INSTITUTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
RESEARCH EXCHANGE PROGRAM COMMENCING 2017

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (HIE) is seeking funding applications from high quality, energetic researchers to support collaborations between the HIE and other research institutions commencing in 2017. An attractive stipend will support travel and living expenses for the duration of the exchange for either for academics/students to visit the HIE (inbound exchange) or for HIE academics/students conducting research at other institutions (outbound exchange).

For inbound exchanges, the collaborator should aim to focus on the Institute’s interdisciplinary research programs that aim to explore how terrestrial ecosystems respond to changes in atmospheric CO$_2$ concentration, climate, land use, biotic invasions and fire [www.uws.edu.au/hawkesburyinstitute](http://www.uws.edu.au/hawkesburyinstitute). Exchange partners will be expected to collaborate with at least two of the institute’s academics. The Institute offers comprehensive field-based facilities including a Free air CO$_2$ Enrichment Experiment in a mature woodland (EucFACE), whole tree chambers and other field-based climate change facilities. Laboratory facilities include a sequencing suite incorporating both Sanger sequencing and latest Next-Generation sequencing platforms, temperature and climate controlled walk-in growth rooms and glasshouse complexes for plant and plant/insect studies. Applicants are encouraged to contact potential research partners in the HIE to discuss proposed projects.

For outbound exchanges, there are opportunities to collaborate at national and international institutions. Applicants should contact the host institution to discuss a proposed project, and gain in-principle support prior to submitting the application.

All exchange partners will be officially considered jointly affiliated with HIE during the time of his/her visit, and for all activities and outputs that result from the exchange (e.g. they will be expected to list HIE affiliation on all scientific outputs resulting in any substantive way from the program).

Applications for Exchange Program funds are open to:

i. academic staff;
ii. postdoctoral fellows;
iii. postgraduate students.
The purpose of the Program is to fund the following activities:

A. initiate a short term exchange of 1-3 months duration. The budget may include travel, living expenses (including accommodation) and minor research costs;

B. initiate a longer term exchange for up to 12 months' duration. The budget may include travel, living expenses (including accommodation), and research costs.

It is expected that these activities should lead to the generation of:

- international linkages and collaborations with the prospect of domestic and/or international research funding;
- high quality publication output;
- improved research training outcomes, both postdoctoral and doctoral, including potential joint arrangements for research training.

While we welcome partners and family accompanying researchers, funding for exchange program does not support the travel or living expenses for partners or families.

Requests to cover consumables costs will need to demonstrate that funds are not available from other sources (i.e. research allocations or external project funds).

Repeat visits are possible, provided specific outcomes can be demonstrated and there is funding available (also see the ‘outcomes’ section below).

Lead hosts may not submit more than two applications per call, and the applications must be ranked ‘1’ and ‘2’ in these instances by the lead host.

Application forms

Applicants are required to prepare and submit an HIE Research Exchange Program application form for either the inbound or outbound exchange programs. An application form (and call) will be posted on the Institute’s website in early August and close 16 September 2016.

Guidelines for project proposals

Each application should outline the broad aims and significance of the proposed exchange to both the Institute and the individual researcher. Evidence of the current research of the applicant, together with anticipated developments and outputs in targeted areas, should also be specified; these should relate clearly and directly to the research objectives of the HIE. The budget requested must be clear and well justified.

As a guide, for all applications you should endeavour to provide:

- an overview of proposed research activities;
- how the exchange will contribute to further development and success of the Institute’s research, and the applicant’s career development;
- a description of the exchange candidate’s current research, their contribution to the state of knowledge, particularly in the Institute’s areas of research focus;
- a description of the expected outcomes, particularly publications and funding applications, national and international opportunities that will arise from the exchange, and strengthening of international linkages;
- a plan for the research project to be undertaken, and a detailed itinerary and timetable.
- a short justification for each budget item requested.

For inbound applications for the exchange program:
- evidence that the proposed HIE principal academic host and co-academic host(s) will support the exchange
- a two page CV of the inbound applicant including publication statistics like H index, citations and total number of publications where available
- a short letter of support from the applicant’s supervisor/manager
- for Higher Degree Research Students, include a paragraph detailing how the exchange will align with the preparation of the thesis.

For outbound applications for the exchange program:
- a two page CV of the academic host including publication statistics like H index, citations and total number of publications where available
- a letter of support from the host institution
- a short letter of support from HIE supervisor (for postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate students only)
- for Higher Degree Research Students, include a paragraph detailing how the exchange will align with the preparation of the thesis.

Outcomes

For inbound applications for the exchange program:
- exchange recipients will be required to present their research at one of the Institute’s weekly seminars
- lead hosts and the exchange recipients will be required to prepare and submit a brief report to the HIE Executive Committee within twelve months of the conclusion of the visit.

For outbound applications for the exchange program:
- exchange recipients will be required to prepare and submit a brief report to the HIE Executive Committee within twelve months of the conclusion of the visit.

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