

**TITLE: Australian Postgraduate Research Award (Industry): “Retroviral invasion of the koala genome: prevalence, transmission and role in immunosuppressive disease”**

**DESCRIPTION:** This scholarship is funded by an ARC Linkage-Projects grant and will provide support for 3 years on a full-time basis for a research project leading to a PhD. This study is based with the Koala Infectious Disease Research group in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, and is in collaboration with the Koala Retrovirus (KoRV) research group at the University of Queensland, where prevalence and transmission of KoRV are being studied. There is considerable opportunity for work across both institutions. The aims of this part of the study are to investigate the effects of KoRV infection on the immune function of koalas and its potential role in disease arising from immune-suppression: an issue that has been of significant interest in the national and international press and has potential significance for the welfare and conservation of koala populations.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Applicants should have an Honours 1 or 2A degree in Veterinary Science, or a relevant Biological Science. Experience/background in immunology theory and methods would be an advantage. Ability and/or willingness to handle animals and work in the field for short periods would be an advantage. Applicants should have excellent English communication skills, be able to work independently and in a team, and be enthusiastic and self-motivated.

**AMOUNT AWARDED:** The scholarship stipend is \$26,669 in 2010 (tax exempt). The scholarship does not cover any tuition fees payable by international students.

**APPLICATION GUIDE:** For further information, contact Dr Damien Higgins. email: [damienh@vetp.usyd.edu.au](mailto:damienh@vetp.usyd.edu.au) Applications, including a curriculum vitae, copy of an academic transcript, and the names and contact details of at least two referees should be sent to Dr Damien Higgins, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Mc Master Building, B14, The University of Sydney NSW 2006. Email: [damienh@vetp.usyd.edu.au](mailto:damienh@vetp.usyd.edu.au)

**CLOSING DATE:** 21 March, 2010

