



Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre

## Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre

### Postgraduate Research

### Top-up Scholarships

#### Introduction

The Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre (PICCC) is a joint venture of the University of Melbourne and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) Victoria. PICCC leads research on the impacts of a changing climate, as well as adaptation and mitigation. PICCC's research addresses production, environmental, policy and social issues at both the enterprise and landscape level.

PICCC offers 3-year postgraduate research top-up scholarships for students undertaking PhD studies at the University of Melbourne. Applications can be submitted at any time; they will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and funds awarded as available.

Successful applicants must undertake research supervised jointly by staff from the University of Melbourne and DEDJTR, and aligned with the PICCC research themes – see [www.piccc.org.au/research/research-themes](http://www.piccc.org.au/research/research-themes).

Project proposals should be in a field of study relevant to climate challenges facing the primary industries (including agriculture, forestry and fisheries). Preference will be given to proposals attached to existing PICCC projects – see [www.piccc.org.au/research/projects](http://www.piccc.org.au/research/projects).

#### Benefits & conditions

The value of the PICCC top-up scholarship is dependent on the value of additional funding obtained by the candidate. PICCC will provide up to \$14,000 per annum to bring the student's total stipend value up to \$28,000 per annum for full time PhD candidates. Please note that PICCC cannot top-up Melbourne International Research Scholarship above \$24,600 per annum, as this is the maximum the University offers for this category.

Alternatively, students may apply for an operating grant of up to \$5000 per annum. Applications for operating grants must state what the funds will be used for.

Receipt of the PICCC top-up scholarship or operating grant will be conditional upon the successful applicants receiving an offer of PhD candidature from the University of Melbourne and matching funding from the University of Melbourne or industry. PICCC may be able to assist successful applicants to source additional funding.

Successful applicants may be based at any University of Melbourne campus or DEDJTR research site, as long as they are co-located with one of their supervisors.

Ongoing receipt of the top-up scholarship in years two and three of the candidature will be contingent upon the student making satisfactory progress in their PhD, according to the University's Academic Progress Policy.

Current University of Melbourne PhD students already part-way through their studies are eligible to apply, but must demonstrate satisfactory progress in their studies to date.

## Eligibility criteria

Applicants must have completed tertiary studies in a relevant discipline that are equivalent to a 4-year honours degree at an Australian university with a minimum overall result of H1 (80–100%) or H2A (75–79%). Applicants normally need to have completed a research project as part of their tertiary studies that accounts for at least 25% of their year's work at 4<sup>th</sup> year or masters level.

Applicants must have applied for entry to a graduate research degree (PhD or Masters by research) at the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Science, the University of Melbourne. Preference will be given to Australian or New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents, however the selection panel will consider outstanding international applicants.

## Selection criteria

Applicants must meet the conditions and eligibility criteria above to be considered for the scholarship. Academic merit will form the primary selection criterion, followed by the alignment of the proposed research with the PICCC objectives and research themes. Demonstrated research potential will also be taken into account.

## Application process

There are two components to the application – the top-up scholarship / operating grant application and the candidature application – **applications must submit both components.**

**For the top-up scholarship / operating grant**, applicants should submit a CV (including contact details of two referees), scanned certified copies of academic transcripts from their tertiary studies and a half-page outline of the proposed research project, including evidence of support from a potential supervisor(s) from either the University of Melbourne or DEDJTR. Operating grant applications should include a budget of expenses stating what the funds will be used for. This application will be assessed by the PICCC Research Executive.

This documentation must be submitted electronically to:

Dr Lauren Hull  
Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre  
[piccc-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:piccc-info@unimelb.edu.au)

**For candidature and additional funding** from the University, applicants should submit the University's 'Application for Admission to Graduate Research Degree Candidature and Scholarship' form and all required supporting documentation either in person or via post to:

Graduate Research Admissions  
Information Centre, Richard Berry Building  
Gate 3, Swanston Street  
University of Melbourne  
Parkville, Victoria 3010, Australia

Visit [www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/applications/research](http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/applications/research) to download the application form. This application will be assessed by the Melbourne Scholarships Office.

## Closing date and timelines

Applications can be submitted at any time; they will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and funds awarded as available. To discuss the timing of your application, please contact the [PICCC team](#).

## Further information

If you require further information about the scholarship or developing a project proposal, please contact:

**Associate Professor Richard Eckard**  
Director, Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre  
Phone: +61 3 9035 8264      Email: [richard.eckard@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:richard.eckard@unimelb.edu.au)