

# Research Scholarships

University of  
Western Sydney  
Bringing knowledge to life



## ***Horse Owners and Hendra Virus: A Longitudinal Cohort Study to Evaluate Risk (HHALTER)***

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)  
Scholarship

### ***HHALTER Project Overview***

The Disaster Response and Resilience Research Group in the School of Medicine is seeking an excellent candidate to help deliver a program of research funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) through funding from the National Hendra Virus Research Program.

The goal of this project is to improve strategies to reduce the transmission of Hendra virus and will be focussed around a longitudinal cohort study of horse owners. The study will investigate factors influencing Hendra virus risk awareness and the uptake of risk mitigation practices by horse owners. Five surveys will be conducted at six-monthly intervals over a 24 month period to assess changes in practices, as well as gauging opinions and attitudes towards emerging issues; such as vaccination, media coverage, or policy-related issues.

The PhD Scholar will be an active and central member of a team of researchers from the UWS School of Medicine, the University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science, the Queensland Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases, and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

### ***Essential criteria***

- Bachelor Honours degree (Class 1 or 2.1) or a research Master degree in a social science discipline; psychology, sociology, or a discipline with specialism in health behaviour, veterinary public health, or similar. Applicants not from a social science discipline need to provide evidence of research or operational experience directly related to the project.
- Demonstrated excellent written and verbal communication skills - we will expect to see examples of written work and experience of oral presentations; academic publications would be desirable, but are not essential.
- Good understanding of research methods and statistics; some familiarity with survey methods, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, and handling large datasets would be an advantage.
- The ability to work and communicate with a wide range of people and experts in a range of disciplines including horse owners, government departments and policy makers, and academics.
- Ability to travel; some second year field work is expected to take place in Queensland and Northern NSW.

### ***Personal characteristics***

- This opportunity will suit someone who has a passion for horses, and who is organised and systematic, outgoing, enthusiastic, and dedicated
- A working knowledge of keeping horses is desirable
- The applicant needs to be prepared to engage in a wide range of media including email and website communication with horse owners, written reports, formal presentations, workshops, interviews and telephone/video conferencing
- Must be willing to take an active role in a multidisciplinary team, be flexible and open to new ideas and approaches

### ***What does the scholarship provide?***

- Tax free stipend of \$35,000 per annum and a funded place in the course.
- Funding is also available for project costs and conference travel.

### ***Need more information?***

- Contact Dr Melanie Taylor [melanie.taylor@uws.edu.au](mailto:melanie.taylor@uws.edu.au), phone +61 2 9685 9552 to discuss the project
- Contact the Office of Research Services to discuss enrolment and scholarships, [HDRscholarships@uws.edu.au](mailto:HDRscholarships@uws.edu.au), phone +61 2 4736 0966
- Read more about the HHALTER project on the web: <http://www.uws.edu.au/hhalter>

### ***How to apply***

- Submit an application form and CV by the closing date
- The application form can be downloaded from the web: <http://www.uws.edu.au/research/scholarships>
- Only domestic applicants are eligible to apply for this award
- The position is based at UWS in Sydney
- The successful applicant will be expected to commence the project as soon as possible

**Tax free stipend of \$35,000 per annum**  
**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 27 JULY 2012**