

New Zealand : PhD Scholarship in Computational Biology

I am looking for a motivated and productive PhD student to join my computational biology research group. My team conducts research in several related areas, particularly evolutionary genomics, simulation modeling and complex systems. Potential study topics include i) using genome-level data to reconstruct human prehistory in the Pacific region, ii) using approaches from complexity science to infer how genetic diversity interacts with social behaviors in small communities, and iii) using high throughput RNA-sequencing to determine universal rules behind gene expression in allopolyploid species. Candidates' proposed research must fit with my group's existing research interests, and must be computational (i.e., not primarily field- or lab-based). Candidates with an interest in population genetics are particularly encouraged to apply.

Candidates must have solid quantitative skills, preferably including expertise in statistics and programming. Some background knowledge of biology is preferred, but training in other subject areas (such as next gen sequencing or anthropology) can be provided as required. Candidates with non-standard backgrounds (e.g., **statistics, computer science, mathematics, physics**) are encouraged to apply.

A generous tax-free stipend and payment of all tuition fees are guaranteed for three years, with a probation period of one year prior to full confirmation.

The PhD position will be based in the Computational Biology Research Group at Massey University, New Zealand. My research team is firmly embedded in the international scientific community, with extensive collaborative links to Australia, Indonesia, Europe and the United States. This position offers a rare opportunity to experience New Zealand's unique natural and cultural environment. Palmerston North, a university town with a large international community, offers a full range of social and cultural amenities. The city is located close to both mountains and the sea, and presents regular opportunities for hiking, skiing, surfing and adventure sports.

If you have any questions, please contact Assoc Prof Murray Cox (m.p.cox@massey.ac.nz). Information about the Computational Biology Research Group (<http://massey.genomicus.com>) and the Institute of Fundamental Sciences (<http://tinyurl.com/ifsmassey>) is available online.

To apply, please send by email (preferably in PDF format):

1. A brief statement of research interests, qualifications and experience.
2. A curriculum vitae.
3. The names and contact details of three referees willing to provide a confidential letter of

recommendation upon request.

Informal enquiries are welcome. We will begin reviewing applications starting 9 March 2014 and the position will remain open until filled.

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Application Deadline : 9 March 2014

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