Template 1: Research Project for PhD Student

Project Title:
Environmental impact of viral disease in fish in the Murray Darling Basin

Project Supervisors: (name only)
Professor Richard Whittington, Dr Joy Becker, Dr Dean Gilligan

Project Champion: (name and email address)
Professor Richard Whittington
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Host unit: (e.g., research institute, school/discipline hosting the project)
Farm Animal and Veterinary Public Health
Faculty of Veterinary Science

Host Unit’s URL:

One Sentence Project Summary: (single sentence for Google-style search results)
This project will investigate the occurrence of epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus (EHNV) in native finfish and determine the conservation impact by determining the susceptibility of these species to the virus experimentally, drawing on techniques and knowledge from fields of virology, immunology and pathology.

Project Synopsis: (about 250 words max)
Applications are invited for an exciting opportunity to conduct research into viral diseases of fish in the Murray Darling river system. Specifically, the project will investigate the occurrence of epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus (EHNV) in native finfish and determine the susceptibility of these species to the virus experimentally. EHNV first occurred in Australia in the 1980s in redfin perch in Victoria and New South Wales where it caused explosive disease outbreaks and has been spreading slowly since. The outcomes of the research will inform policy development and conservation management in the Murray Darling basin. Techniques employed will include epidemiology, virology, immunology and pathology. The research will be conducted in modern well equipped laboratories at Camden, with some field work in southern Australia. The successful applicant will work with academic experts in the Farm Animal and Veterinary Public Health Group and with scientists in NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries).

Keywords for Research Area and Clinical Condition (these are needed so that people may search by key word):
Virology, freshwater ecology, conservation, microbiology, epidemiology, fish health & biology, pathology, immunology, field study, experimental challenge,

Other Information: (Optional) (e.g., techniques used in the project - e.g., electron microscopy, current PhD topics; scholarships/funding available; possible research areas for PhDs topics; etc.)

Applicants must have an honours degree in Veterinary Science, Science or equivalent and an interest in microbial diseases and it would be desirable to have some knowledge or experience in fisheries biology. The stipend is $25,000 per annum tax free.