

PhD opportunity - Cultivation of new truffle species in Australia

We have an exciting industry-initiated PhD opportunity to explore new truffle species for cultivation in Australia. Currently, the main species grown is the black truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*); this project will concentrate on two additional species, the white spring truffle (*Tuber borchii*) and the black summer truffle (*Tuber aestivum*).

The PhD project will examine inoculum production and inoculation processes, different hosts and nursery substrates, the development of a molecular diagnostic protocol to distinguish between different *Tuber* species, and the use of this protocol to follow the inoculation and establishment of the *Tuber* species in the nursery and plantations.

The project will involve laboratory, glasshouse and fieldwork, and we expect the applicant to have a biology degree, and postgraduate research experience working with fungi.

The successful applicant will work with a team of academics at Murdoch University and with industry partners.

The chosen candidate will receive an industry-funded scholarship via the Future Food Systems CRC. The scholarship provides an excellent opportunity for an outstanding full-time postgraduate candidate to undertake an industry-focused research project designed to solve a real-world challenge in high-value food production.

*A Future Food Systems Industrial PhD Scholarship puts you at the heart of a transdisciplinary research ecosystem and industry network that encourages the application of new science and technology to the food and nutrition sector. If you are a **motivated university graduate**; if you want to undertake **high-impact, high-value research**; if you want to **create institutional or social change**; if you want to **maximise your career opportunities**, a Future Food Systems Industrial PhD Scholarship will put you on an accelerated path.*

We envisage a start date in the latter part of 2022.

To be considered for this role, each candidate must address the following criteria in his or her submission:

- ensure you meet the necessary entry requirements for Doctoral research at Murdoch University – www.murdoch.edu.au/study/how-to-apply/entry-requirements. If you are unsure whether you meet the requirements, please contact the Graduate Research School at: graduateresearchdegrees@murdoch.edu.au
- an undergraduate degree in biology or a related discipline
- experience working with fungi
- laboratory, glasshouse and field experience
- excellent written and verbal communication skills
- an ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team.



Application

For more information, please contact Professor Treena Burgess at t.burgess@murdoch.edu.au

Value: A full scholarship of \$30K per annum (tax-free) for up to four years, plus travel support and access to industry network, workshops and support as a Future Food Systems CRC Scholar.

Closing date: Monday, 30th May 2022

This position is open to international applicants.

