

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) paid study opportunity – Exploring opportunities for ecosystem service economies on the Indigenous estate



RIEL

Research Institute for the
Environment and Livelihoods

Charles Darwin University's (CDU) Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods (RIEL) and the Northern Territory Government (NTG) are offering a scholarship for a PhD candidate to undertake a project, based in Darwin, that explores opportunities for ecosystem service economies on the Indigenous estate in the Northern Territory, Australia.

Scholarship and financial support: The Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship valued at \$32,192 per annum (tax exempt and indexed annually), and an RTP Fee Offset for tuition fees, will be available for a maximum of 3 years from commencement. This is open to Australian citizens/residents or New Zealand citizens. For further information about the RTP scholarship conditions for CDU see the [RTP Policy and Procedure](#). For further information about CDU-NTG Scholarships please visit [Higher Degree by Research Scholarships at CDU](#).

The University will also support Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students by providing RTP Scholarship recipients with a University Relocation Allowance. In 2024, this allowance is up to \$2,000.

About the project: CDU and NTG are seeking a candidate for a proposed project that will aim to assess the value of ecosystem services (ES) from native forests for the Indigenous peoples in East Arnhem Land, NT. The project will evaluate the benefits of forestry-related economic opportunities including job creation, the opportunity to work and learn on-Country, enhanced well-being, etc. Estimating the value of Indigenous provenance timber and non-timber products and other ES will help to establish an emerging Indigenous forestry market sector, in line with the National Indigenous Forestry Strategy (2005). Additional project partners include Gumatj Corporation and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT).

The PhD candidate will be based at CDU in Darwin. The project will be led by the Ecosystem Services Group within the Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods (RIEL). We will collaborate with the DITT Forestry branch where an Indigenous forestry project in East Arnhem Land is currently underway, focused on opportunities for sustainable native forestry. The opportunity will also include a minimum three-month HDR internship with a research end-user to gain experience and develop connections.

About you:

- You bring a high level of academic merit and research background that meets the RTP Stipend Scholarship requirements, preferably in Environmental Sciences or a similar field
- A sound understanding of and interest in working with Indigenous people in Australia
- A willingness to conduct remote fieldwork and to actively participate in an internship with a research end-user

Benefits to you:

- You will be an integral part of a trans-disciplinary research team with exposure to University, Government and Industry, providing ample opportunity for professional development as well as career progression following completion of the PhD

- Help make a difference to the wellbeing of First Nations communities by contributing to the establishment and support of pathways for the Indigenous peoples of East Arnhem Land to work, learn and earn on country
- Undertake fieldwork and travel in the remote and spectacular regions of the Northern Territory
- Access to Student Support Services and Wellbeing Support Program
- Work with a University committed to changing people's lives for the better through training, education and research.



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Essential selection criteria:

- Per the RTP scholarship conditions, the candidate must be either an Australian citizen or permanent resident, or a New Zealand citizen
- First-class Honours degree or a Master's degree containing a substantial research component in a relevant field
- Must be able to meet the [PhD course entry requirements](#) at CDU
- It is preferable that applicants have some publications, e.g., research reports, journal publications, etc.

Application process:

Interested applicants should contact Assoc Prof Kamaljit Sangha email (kamaljit.sangha@cdu.edu.au) to submit an expression of interest attaching:

- a CV
- one page cover letter outlining your research interests and experience
- relevant statements and academic transcripts
- publications

Please note that applications will be assessed as they are received, and the preferred applicant will be invited to apply for a PhD enrolment online.

As there is no closing date on this application process, we encourage early application.

Commencement date: As soon as possible in 2024.

Principal supervisor: [Dr Kamaljit Sangha](#), Associate Professor – Ecological Economics, RIEL, Faculty of Science and Technology. Contact kamaljit.sangha@cdu.edu.au or +61 8 8946 6792.

Diversity and Inclusion

At CDU, we actively celebrate our diversity. We innovate, embrace new ideas, and act with courage and kindness. We're about what we can give to the world rather than what we take, and we believe in the transformative power of education. We work hard to make sure every member of our university community feels that they truly belong. Understanding that it is through our focus on our people and leveraging our differences that will make CDU the most connected university in Australia, we are striving to ensure that our culture and our community are inclusive of all our staff, students and visitors. We are committed to maintaining a culture where everyone feels respected, safe, encouraged to speak up and supported in achieving their professional goals.

You make CDU. And we want you to be exactly who you are.