

PhD scholarship available for a population-genomic and taxonomic study of *Eucalyptus* at University of Canterbury, New Zealand

The New Zealand Dryland Forests Initiative (NZDFI) aims to create plantations of high-value *Eucalyptus* species in dry environments of the east coast of the South Island. For this purpose, Australian seed collections of five *Eucalyptus* species were planted in New Zealand to determine if these species produce desirable growth and wood qualities (e.g. low growth stress, high natural durability) in the New Zealand environment. The proposed project aims to use genomic tools to understand how genomic and environmental variation interact to influence commercially important traits of selected *Eucalyptus* species in the NZDFI common garden experiments to:

- 1) Inform future genomic selection in breeding programs,
- 2) Resolve the taxonomic delimitation of two morphologically similar species (*E. argophloia* and *E. bosistoana*), and to
- 3) Inform the conservation management of *E. argophloia* (Vulnerable) and *E. bosistoana* (Near Threatened) in Australia.



We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student with field and lab research experience in population genetics/genomics or systematics, preferably in plants, and an interest in building strong multidisciplinary relationships. Good written and spoken communication skills are essential. Candidates must have a valid driver's licence and be willing to undertake field work.

The successful applicant will be supervised by a multidisciplinary team of researchers in the Schools of Forestry (Drs. Apiolaza and Altaner) and Biological Sciences (Drs. Pelsler and Steeves) of University of Canterbury (Christchurch, New Zealand). The research team is committed to Kindness in Science (kindnessinscience.wordpress.com); we aim to capture diverse perspectives and foster a science environment where early career researchers flourish and better science outcomes are achieved.

The scholarship contributes to living expenses (NZ\$ 22,000 p.a.) and all university fees (NZ\$ ~8,200) for a maximum of 3.5 years.

The position remains open until filled. Starting date is open for discussion, but an early start is preferred.

Inquiries and applications (cover letter, CV) are to be addressed to Pieter.pelsler@canterbury.ac.nz