

Outstanding PhD student wanted!

Novel solutions to combat loss of marine forests and turf expansion

Pervasive habitat deterioration and destruction presents one of the biggest threats to species and global ecological function. There has been an accelerating loss kelp forests globally, and an associated rise and persistence of degraded seascapes of sediment-laden algal 'turfs'. **This PhD project will improve how we understand the persistence of turf-dominated reefs in the context of ongoing climate change, and will explore possible solutions to promote recovery of degraded marine forests.** The PhD candidate can develop their research using a suite of different tools and approaches, including field experiments, novel restoration techniques, and cutting-edge genomic analyses targeting strong genotypes. The project is part of a research initiative funded by the Australian Research Council, with the broader goal to develop innovative intervention-based solutions to boost resistance or restore threatened kelp forests. This is a collaboration between UWA and the NSW Department of Primary Industries. It will also link with international research networks, with a potential for overseas field work and comparative studies in South Africa and Norway. Experience with genomics, field-based research and scuba activities are desirable but not essential. Some time spent away on field trips and research visits must be anticipated.

The student will be part of the [Wernberg Lab](#) and based in the [School of Biological Sciences](#) & the [UWA Oceans Institute](#) at [the University of Western Australia](#) (Crawley Campus, Perth), where they will work as part of a diverse team of researchers, post-graduate and under-graduate students. A strong academic record, quantitative skills and experience with marine ecology (MSc or 1st class Honours) is required. The student will be expected to apply for and secure a Postgraduate Research Scholarship ([more information here](#)).

Prospective candidates should send a CV and cover letter, briefly outlining their motivations for pursuing PhD research and their interests, to Karen Filbee-Dexter (kfilbeedexter@gmail.com), Melinda Coleman (melinda.coleman@gmail.com) and Thomas Wernberg (thomas.wernberg@uwa.edu.au) **before 15 August 2019**.

