Faculty of Science and Engineering, Curtin University

Call for Applications for:

PhD Scholarships in Science and Engineering Education (2 positions)

November 2014

Two PhD scholarships (covering both academic fees and living stipend), funded by an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery grant, are available for the holders to conduct research in a project that investigates the nature of learning in Science and Engineering laboratory activities. The final practical objective of the project is an assessment of the level to which student learning in a physical laboratory setting can be replicated in remote/online laboratories. In this regard, the project is strongly aligned with the contemporary and future delivery of degree programs in Science and Engineering in the rapidly developing era of online, remote-access, education.

Upon PhD graduation, the scholars would be ideally placed to commence a career in the field of Science and Engineering Education having been supervised by, and received training from, a project team that comprises a mix of internationally leading researchers and nationally leading educators.

The research methods to be deployed in the project potentially include laboratory observations, surveys, data gathering, analysis and interpretation of qualitative and quantitative data, synthesis of findings to arrive at evidenced understanding, and design of potential online educational delivery mechanisms

Candidates for these PhD scholarships are expected to:

- Hold a laboratory-based undergraduate degree in a technical field (e.g. Chemistry, Physics, Engineering) at a high level (honours) of academic achievement;
- Have an interest in education and/or training as demonstrated by extra-curricular activities;
- Demonstrate an aptitude for research through their analytical skills and creative thinking;
- Be able to work in a team setting and take responsibility for their individual tasks;
- Be experienced in the use of digital technology and software packages;
- Possess excellent spoken and written communications skills that may be evidenced, for example, through their undergraduate thesis/project work and presentations given; and
- Practise well-developed time- and self-management skills with strong personal discipline and drive in their work.

For more detail or informal discussion of the research project and/or your suitability, please contact: Associate Professor Mauro Mocerino, E-mail: M.Mocerino@curtin.edu.au ; Tel. +61-8-9266-3125

Applications can be made online by visiting: http://futurestudents.curtin.edu.au/postgraduates/ When making an application, please mention this specific project and having communicated with Associate Professor Mauro Mocerino or another (by name) of the project team members.

Applications can be made from December 1st 2014 and will remain open until the positions are filled.