

PhD in Australian Alpine Seed and Seedling Ecology.

Interested in Alpine ecology? Want to contribute to the conservation of Australia's unique Alpine flora? At present, little is known of the resilience of plants and plant communities in the Australian Alps to changes in climatic regimes and seasonal shifts. In collaboration with the Australian National Botanic Gardens we are investigating alpine seed and seedling traits under current and predicted climate scenarios. Our research into alpine seed production, quality and longevity, seed germination and dormancy patterns, seedling recruitment and vigour and alpine plant propagation will contribute to the *ex situ* conservation of alpine flora in the National Alpine Seed Bank, and improved management of alpine flora *in situ*.

We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student to join our research team. The ideal applicant will have a strong background in plant ecology or physiology (BSc Hons. or equivalent) and interests in alpine ecology, climate change, seed and seedling ecology, and/or plant conservation. Broad understanding of plant biology, (preferably including ecology, evolution and physiology), demonstrated ability to conduct field-work and independent research experience are desirable. The project will apply techniques of environmental plant physiology and seed biology in field, glasshouse and lab-based studies. Interested students must apply for admission to ANU.

Supervisors: Dr. Adrienne Nicotra, Roger Good and Dr. Gemma Hoyle.

Location: Australian National University, Canberra, with field work in Kosciusko National Park.

Application deadline: October 31st 2009.

Start date: Early 2010.

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