

Charles Darwin International PhD Scholar (CDIPS) Scheme

In partnership with Charles Darwin University, Menzies School of Health Research is now offering several opportunities for Charles Darwin International PhD Scholars (CDIPS) Scheme. This scheme will bring together high-quality supervisors and international students to work together to ensure timely completion of the scholar's PhD and publication of Q1 quality type outputs during their candidature. The scholarships will be awarded to high-quality international students who can demonstrate their ranking in the top 5 per cent of their graduating class, publication of Q1 and Q2 quality-type outputs from their undergraduate or postgraduate research or being recipients of prestigious awards in their universities.

The scholarship consists of tax-free stipends and tuition fee waivers. Each stipend will be for \$30,000 per year (adjusted yearly) for three years, with an additional one-off \$5,000 allocated to support part of the student's medical insurance and relocation. Tuition fees of the PhD course (approx. \$28,000 per year, adjusted yearly) will also be waived for three years. The stipend and tuition fee waivers may be extended to 3.5 years, for students who demonstrate publication of high-quality research outputs prior to applying for extension.

Project: Developing novel tools and strategies for the elimination of malaria in Bhutan

The research project

Over the last two decades the incidence of malaria has decreased worldwide, and for the first-time in history malaria elimination seems feasible. In 2014, 21 countries from the Asia Pacific committed to malaria elimination by 2030. However, more recently progress has stalled. Malaria control and its ultimate elimination is confounded by complex challenges.

In Bhutan the number of cases of malaria fell from 1,751 in 2006 to 54 in 2014. Currently, malaria testing is mandatory for all febrile cases identified within areas of the country where malaria remains a risk. Malaria continues to be present at very low levels with a total of 42 cases reported in 2019, of which the majority (34 cases) were found in migrant workers from India. In response Bhutan has set up active screening at all border crossings for all foreign migrant workers entering the country; however, detection of infections is hampered by the low sensitivity of diagnostic tests.

The aim of this project is to describe the changing infectious febrile disease burden in the light of declining malaria incidence and assess novel tools and methods to support malaria elimination within the country.

The aim will be reached by combining quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

Supervisor team

- Dr Benedikt Ley (Menzies School of Health Research)
- Prof Ric N. Price (Menzies School of Health Research)
- Prof Nora Engels (University of Maastricht, NL)
- Dr Nicholas Douglas (Menzies School of Health Research)

Role of the successful applicant

The PhD student will play an integral part in this project by developing data collection tools, collecting data and performing quantitative and qualitative data analysis with support from supervisors. The successful applicant will contribute to the distribution of findings by preparing and publishing peer reviewed scientific publications and presenting findings at international conferences.

About you

The selection of applicants for the award of the CDIPS involves consideration of your academic merit and research background: The following essential criteria apply:

- A first-class Honours degree or a Master's degree containing a substantial research component in a related area.
- A proven research track record of contributing to international peer-reviewed journal publications.
- Demonstrated English language proficiency required for postgraduate courses in CDU (<https://www.cdu.edu.au/international/how-apply/entry-requirements>).

Application process

Interested applicants should contact Dr Ben Ley at benedikt.ley@menzies.edu.au. Applications should include:

- A current CV including details of two academic referees

- A cover letter outlining a) your research interests b) how you meet the above selection criteria
- A copy of your academic qualifications, academic transcripts and thesis
- Evidence of English language proficiency (e.g. IELTS) if your degree(s) was not completed in English

All applications should be submitted to benedikt.ley@menzies.edu.au by 20 December 2020. The preferred applicant will be invited to apply through CDU Global.