

PhD Work type: Fixed Term

Location: Werribee or Parkville (negotiable)

The Asia-Pacific Centre for Animal Health (APCAH) in the Faculty of Veterinary and Agriculture Sciences are looking for a student interested in undertaking a PhD focusing on population dynamics in Australian thoroughbred racehorses.

We have one scholarship for an appropriately qualified student to commence research in 2018.

The Australian thoroughbred racing industry is a significant contributor to the Australian economy. The welfare of horses participating in racing is paramount to maintaining the industry's 'social license'. It is acknowledged that injury and poor performance both play a significant role contributing to the early retirement of horses but little is understood about what constitutes a typical career for a racing thoroughbred and factors influencing career longevity.

The aim of this PhD study is to document the structure of the population of thoroughbred racehorses in Australia, document post-racing outcomes and to identify factors contributing to career longevity. The project creates the opportunity to use population-level industry 'big data' to better understand patterns of loss and patterns of success to assist in identifying horses at-risk of early exit from racing. The project will suit candidates with undergraduate degrees in veterinary science, animal science or epidemiology with an interest in the analysis of big data.

The project academic supervisors are Professor Mark Stevenson (APCAH), Professor James Gilkerson, and Dr. Peta Hitchens (Equine Orthopaedic Research Group).

Closing date: 31 Aug 2018

HOW TO APPLY:

Please complete the expression of interest form (below), along with your CV, academic transcript and academic references as a single pdf document to Dr Peta Hitchens peta.hitchens@unimelb.edu.au.

For further enquiries please contact Dr. Hitchens on the above email or phone +61 3 8001 2448 or Professor James Gilkerson on +61 3 8344 9969.

Do not apply via the 'Apply Now' button below.