THE GLOBAL CHANGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Let me be amongst the first to congratulate you on being selected to undertake your Doctor of Philosophy at The University of Queensland (UQ). Selecting an academic institution for your postgraduate studies can be difficult and I applaud your decision to choose UQ.

The University of Queensland boasts more than 232,000 alumni (including 15,000 research higher degree alumni) whose impact is as far ranging as their global reach. I am immensely proud of the many students that have studied at this great University who have made significant contributions in their chosen fields.

As a member of the scholars program, you will benefit from the University’s five-year student strategy. At its heart is the student experience, with a focus on enhanced extracurricular opportunities, industry placements and more flexible learning opportunities with UQ’s world-renowned academics.

In addition to traditional Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) opportunities, Global Change Scholars will be given insights and skills to help situate their research in the context of global change. Whether it be addressing energy or water security, the challenges of climate change, urbanisation, an ageing population or other global drivers, this emerging area of academic interest involves the study of multiple disciplines to address some of the greatest challenges of our time. Working across disciplinary boundaries is an opportunity that will no doubt inform your future career, while also enabling you to consider some of the biggest global change-related issues of this generation.

The program will give UQ’s best and brightest PhD candidates the opportunity to truly take advantage of everything this top research university has to offer, including a four-day retreat to Lady Elliot Island where scholars will receive an insight into the impact of human activity on the natural world. The program will equip its students with the knowledge, experience and skills to lead and inform genuine change across their working lives, which will no doubt benefit us all.

I encourage all students embarking on their PhDs to consider applying for the program and I hope the successful candidates make the most of all that is available through it.

Professor Alastair McEwan
Dean | UQ Graduate School

A doctor of Philosophy is recognised as the highest level of academic study and generation of new disciplinary knowledge. However, there is an increasing need for PhD students to develop broader capabilities as knowledge leaders who can truly impact our changing world.

We are facing the greatest challenges we have known in our time on this planet. Population growth, urbanisation and resource exploitation – combined with the impacts of climate change, shifting geopolitical realities and the digital revolution – will create enormous challenges and opportunities in the coming decades. Embracing change – and ensuring that communities prosper in a way that is fair, sustainable and peaceful – will require research leaders who understand global trends, and have the motivation and capacity to drive the changes necessary for us to build sustainable futures.

The Global Change Scholars Program will provide UQ’s best and brightest PhD candidates unique insight into the challenges presented by global change, as well as the research methods, techniques and strategies for addressing these challenges. Scholars will engage with prominent thought leaders from industry, academia and policy makers throughout the program, providing improved understanding of the impact of change in our society.

A Global Change Scholar you will join an elite and passionate cohort, prepared to not only face but also respond to the unique challenges and opportunities of the next generation. You will learn new ways of viewing the world and responding to significant population and environmental issues; you will have the opportunity to develop an industry-focused sustainable business idea; and you will be mentored by the best.

The program promises to be both cutting-edge and career defining. It is an important time to become associated with global change and I — and indeed The University of Queensland — look forward to your involvement.

Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg
Director | UQ Global Change Institute
The planet is under enormous pressure. The impacts of a growing population, urbanisation and resource exploitation, combined with the impacts of climate change, shifting geopolitical realities and the digital revolution, create enormous challenges and opportunities in the coming decades.

Embracing change — and ensuring that communities prosper in a way that is fair, sustainable and peaceful — will require research leaders who understand global trends and who can create positive social, cultural, economic and environmental transformations.

Hosted by UQ’s Graduate School in partnership with the Global Change Institute, the Global Change Scholars Program is an initiative designed to produce those research leaders. Graduates of the program will possess a unique cohort experience for up to 30 graduate students from across the University’s faculties and institutes. Through intensive, seminar-style lectures, a four-day retreat at Lady Elliot Island and internships undertaken alongside students’ PhD studies, Global Change Scholars will have the opportunity to explore the broader relevance of their own research in the context of global change. Learning side-by-side with students from other disciplines, Global Change Scholars will be exposed to the latest thinking on global change from internationally renowned academics as well as captains of industry, and political and societal leaders. Scholars will regularly engage with well-recognised leaders in their fields who are passionate about global change issues. In addition, scholars will profile their research through public engagement, networking opportunities and through the media, including a dedicated scholars’ program on ABC Radio National’s Science Show with Robyn Williams.

The Program aligns closely to the UQ Graduate School values: solutions-focused, collaborative and adaptable research with integrity.

The 18-month program will provide a unique cohort experience for up to 30 graduate students from across the University’s faculties and institutes. Through intensive, seminar-style lectures, a four-day retreat at Lady Elliot Island and internships undertaken alongside students’ PhD studies, Global Change Scholars will have the opportunity to explore the broader relevance of their own research in the context of global change. Learning side-by-side with students from other disciplines, Global Change Scholars will be exposed to the latest thinking on global change from internationally renowned academics as well as captains of industry, and political and societal leaders. Scholars will regularly engage with well-recognised leaders in their fields who are passionate about global change issues. In addition, scholars will profile their research through public engagement, networking opportunities and through the media, including a dedicated scholars’ program on ABC Radio National’s Science Show with Robyn Williams.

The Program will provide students with:

1. Module 1: Global Change: Trends, opportunities and challenges
   - A broader view and experience of the challenges of global change
   - Leadership skills
   - Networking opportunities with academic, industry, government and community leaders
   - Opportunities to build your research profile
   - Future career development pathways.

The Global Change Scholars Program consists of five modules. Scholars will complete Modules 1, 2 and 3, and have a choice between Modules 4 and 5 for their final project, which will be assessed.

2. Module 2: Sustainable Change: Retreat to Lady Elliot Island
   - A four-day retreat to Lady Elliot Island, situated in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, will give scholars direct insight into the beauty of our natural world, as well as the impact of human activity on ecosystems. Workshops will focus on the ways in which integrated, interdisciplinary teams can solve complex problems.

   - Under the mentorship of UQ’s academics, and industry and societal leaders, scholars will produce a project demonstrating the ways in which their work speaks to global trends and how it might drive some aspect of global change. Scholars will be encouraged to think creatively and explore non-traditional avenues to present their academic findings. Previous submissions for this module include computer games, animations, and a cake!

   - Scholars will access their ‘inner entrepreneur’ through the development of a plan for a sustainable business idea. Scholars will work with the UQ Business School, and captains of industry and the community to produce business plans that will be judged by business leaders, entrepreneurs and policy makers.

5. Module 5: Achieving Change: Internship Program
   - Scholars will undertake an internship at a public or private sector enterprise, during which they will work on an aspect of global change relevant to the host organisation. At the culmination of the internship students will present to their findings to their host organisation. Presentations will be assessed by the host organisation and UQ representatives.
Students are required to complete an online application form and submit a one-page Expression of Interest. The latter should detail why the student would like to be a Global Change Scholar, how they (and their research) will benefit from the Global Change Scholar Program and what they will contribute to the experience. Thirty students will be selected to be Global Change Scholars.

Expressions of interest for the 2018 intake opened in March and will close on Sunday 15 April.

Eligible students have been contacted and invited to apply. Please email graduateschool@uq.edu.au for more information.

Lady Elliot Island Retreat

Lady Elliot Island is a coral cay nestled between Fraser Island and Lady Musgrave Island, approximately 80 kilometres north-east of Bundaberg, QLD. The Island lies within a Marine National Park ‘Green Zone’ and is situated at the southern tip of Australia’s World Heritage Listed Great Barrier Reef.

Scholars will meet with Peter Gash, the owner of the resort, and one of Australia’s leading ‘eco-entrepreneurs’. Lady Elliot Island generates its own power through a state-of-the-art hybrid solar power station that combines solar, battery, inverter and generator technology to supply 3-phase power to the island. This four-day retreat provides an opportunity for scholars to observe and understand the impacts of human activity on a natural ecosystem first hand, while exploring opportunities to limit these impacts.

Interview for ABC Radio National’s Science Show

ABC science journalist Robyn Williams has presented Radio National’s Science Show for more than 40 years. Selected scholars will have the opportunity to hone their media skills and profile their research through a radio interview with the veteran broadcaster.

Duration

The program will run over a period of 18 months.

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Cost

There is no additional cost to join this program. Participation may also make you eligible for the additional six-month stipend scholarship extension available from UQ Graduate School for career related activities.

APPLICATION DUE IN APRIL

1. FEB
2. MAR
3. APR
4. MAY
5. JUN

END OF YEAR AWARDS

1. JUL
2. AUG
3. SEP
4. OCT
5. NOV

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS