Institute for Commercial Forestry Research (ICFR)

Providing excellence in applied forestry research and technology for the South African Forest Industry

Post-Graduate Student (MSc) Research Opportunity at the ICFR 2015

The ICFR provides applied forestry research expertise in areas of forest management, risk mitigation, site potential and hardwood breeding, generating knowledge and technology outcomes which support a sustainable and competitive South African forestry sector. Through integrated and multidisciplinary projects, we generate research and development outcomes in the form of relevant and applicable technical solutions, products and services.

Forestry is one of the strategic economic sectors in South Africa, with a significant contribution towards economic growth and job creation in the country. It is estimated that around 63 000 people are directly employed in forestry in South Africa, working for an industry that strives to produce timber-based products from a renewable source, cost-effectively and sustainably. Research is essential to support innovation and the development of new technologies, ensuring our industry is globally competitive

In support of national imperatives for skills development, and to meet increasing sector demand for relevant expertise, the ICFR offers a number of postgraduate study opportunities from 2015. Successful candidates will form part of integrated research teams at the ICFR, working with leading South African Universities including the Universities of Cape Town, Free State, Pretoria, KwaZulu-Natal and Stellenbosch.

Postgraduate Opportunities Offered for 2015:

Opportunity	Discipline or Research Area	Project Title	Project Description
MSc	Plant physiology and reproductive biology	**Pollinator x seed orchard environment studies**	Seed crop production of commercial temperate eucalypts is currently hampered by a lack of knowledge of the trees' reproductive biology and interactions with local pollinators in different environments. Co-supervised by ICFR and academic staff of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, this project will explore the reproductive biology of two key eucalypt species, to assess the effectiveness of local pollinators for the trees and how local environments surrounding the eucalypt orchards influence the assemblage of potential pollinators. Outcomes include the development of management plans to optimise pollination of trees and a management tool for identifying optimum temperate eucalypt seed orchard production sites applicable across the sector. This project would be funded by the an NRF-SIF grant and would include R80 000 p.a. plus running expenses and the costs of attendance at a conference

If you are interested in this project, please submit a short letter indicating your expression of interest, together with an abbreviated CV, to Dr Adam Shuttleworth at shuttleworthadam@gmail.com by 9 March 2015. Please contact Dr Adam Shuttleworth (email: shuttleworthadam@gmail.com; tel: +27 33 260 6559) or Karin Nagel (email: Karin.Nagel@icfr.ukzn.ac.za; tel: +27 33 386 2314) for further information. Applicants should have a BSc plus Honours or equivalent four year degree. A background in ecology and/or entomology would be an advantage.

If successful, non-South African applicants will need to obtain SAQA accreditation of qualifications in order to register at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. South African applicants may also require SAQA accreditation depending on the institution at which qualifications were obtained. Refer to http://www.saqa.org.za/ for details.