

2022 Alpine Ecology Studentship

Company

Research Centre for Applied Alpine Ecology, La Trobe University

Company Overview

The Research Centre for Applied Alpine Ecology (RCAAE) comprises a group of professional scientists, post-graduate students and academics who study all aspects of the ecology of alpine and sub-alpine landscapes. Our scientific research includes ecological processes, effects of fire, exotic plants and animals, endangered species management, human activities, and the management of these ecosystems in response to climate change.

Further information can be found at: <http://rcaae.org/>

Role Overview

Monitoring of vegetation in the Victorian alps commenced in the 1940s due to concerns about erosion of water catchments and the effects of livestock grazing. This ecological research has been beneficial to land managers and has provided an understanding of the long-term dynamics of alpine vegetation and how it responds to disturbance.

While livestock grazing has ceased in the Alpine National Park, ecologists continue to monitor vegetation dynamics and research the ecology of alpine flora. These monitoring and research programs investigate the legacy of past disturbances and how current threats such as invasive species and climate change are impacting alpine flora and ecosystems.

During the coming summer, you will have the opportunity to work on a variety of projects in the Victorian alps. You will help collect data from established plots on alpine summits which will contribute to understanding long-term trends in alpine summit vegetation. You will also assist in monitoring the success of alpine ecosystem rehabilitation at Mt Hotham and investigate the reproductive ecology of a high mountain shrub, Alpine Orites.

Students will be trained in field ecology techniques. Skills to be learnt include plant identification, quantitative measurements of plant populations and environmental attributes, database entry and data manipulation.

During the project, students will be required to live at Falls Creek alpine resort and other locations in the Victorian alps for part of the studentship and undertake field work in a variety of conditions.

By obtaining a studentship, you can contribute to long-term research and monitoring which is contributing to conservation of these natural areas.

Role Requirements

The studentships will suit students currently studying 2nd or 3rd year **Ecology and who wish to proceed to Honours**. If you have an interest in **field-based research, botany, plant ecology, and vegetation monitoring and conservation**, you will be particularly suited to these cadetships. There are potential Honours projects that can be developed around the research and monitoring in the alps.

Location

Victorian Alps, and Department of Ecology, Environment & Evolution, La Trobe University Bundoora.

Duration

Approx. weeks from early January until mid-February 2022.

Scholarship

Payment of \$500 per week. Accommodation costs will be covered by the RCAAE.



Accommodation and Transport

Accommodation will be provided in ski lodges at Falls Creek and Mt Hotham resorts, a short distance from major field sites. There may be some camping trips when visiting more remote sites. Transport will be provided from Bundoora to alpine resorts.

How to Apply

To apply for the 2022 summer studentship with the RCAAE, please email a resume and a cover letter to John Morgan (j.morgan@latrobe.edu.au).

The cover letter should include why you would like to complete the 2022 studentship with the Research Centre for Applied Alpine Ecology.

Applications close Friday 8th October 2021. Interviews for the studentship will be conducted the following week.

Enquires or Further Information can be obtained from

Assoc Prof John Morgan (J.Morgan@latrobe.edu.au)