

3 x Funded PhD Opportunities: Integrating mangroves into coastal infrastructure

Expressions of interest due 25th April 2025

Application Deadline: 9th May 2025

These three PhD positions are part of [Project Halo](#), a collaborative research project between the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and the University of South Pacific (USP). The project aims to contribute to the global effort to enhance coastal resilience by developing innovative solutions that integrate nature-based solutions with maritime infrastructure to create effective coastal protection. We work closely with local communities, government, and environmental organizations in Fiji to ensure that our research outcomes are aligned with the needs of coastal communities.

The preferred candidate for PhD position 1 would have experience in civil and/or mechanical engineering with interests in nature-based solutions. Expertise in modelling (physical or numerical) is preferred. Strong communication skills are desired.

The preferred candidate for PhD position 2 would have experience in blue carbon planning, policy or science with interests in international practice. Expertise in various blue carbon methods is preferred. Strong communication skills are desired.

The preferred candidate for PhD position 3 would have experience in mangrove ecology with interests in laboratory-based experiments. Expertise in statistical methods is preferred. Strong communication skills are desired.

The successful candidate(s) will participate in a large multidisciplinary international project, engaging in the design, build, optimization, and experimental testing in wave flumes at UNSW's Water Research Laboratory and be involved with field deployment in Fiji. The successful candidate will be equipped with the skills, knowledge, and experience to pursue a career in engineering, research, academia, government, or industry, and create a positive impact on coastal communities and ecosystems worldwide. We are looking for people to become an integral part of a dynamic, multidisciplinary team who should possess exceptional research and communication skills. We encourage candidates with backgrounds in coastal protection, flume experiments, environmental engineering/science, product design, ocean science, physics, or related fields, with a keen interest and willingness to learn to how to conduct wave flume experiments and data analysis, to apply.

The opportunity to enrol in a Cotutelle PhD with both UNSW and USP is available as part of Project Halophyte and considered on a case-by-case basis with each applicant, with a PhD degree awarded by both UNSW and USP upon completion of the PhD.

The successful domestic or international candidates will be eligible to receive a Research Scholarship for 3.5 years funded and a potential top-up scholarship is available for exceptional candidates. Domestic applicants will need to be competitive for an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset Scholarship to cover tuition fees. A successful international candidate will need to satisfy the requirements for a Research Training Program Fee offset or Tuition Fee Scholarship. Please see <https://research.unsw.edu.au/higher-degree-research-programs> for information on your eligibility, competitiveness and PhD entry requirements. Domestic candidates can start in either Trimester 3 2025 or Trimester 1 in 2026, International candidates would start in Trimester 1 2026.

For further inquiries or to express your interest in the project, please contact A/Prof. Andrew Dansie (a.dansie@unsw.edu.au) and Prof. Will Glamore (w.glamore@unsw.edu.au). Only those who have expressed an expression of interest and are deemed suitable will be invited to apply for the May 9th deadline.