

PhD research opportunity

Seeking a student to support
the almond industry through
innovative research

Apply today

The successful candidate will receive:

- A \$37,000 p.a (tax-free) scholarship up to three and a half years
- Training in Australia's first integrated agricultural systems biology research centre, AgriBio
- Professional development programs
- Travel opportunities

**Based at the Agriculture
Victoria's Mildura
SmartFarm, Irymple,
Victoria, Australia**

Successful applicants must meet the La Trobe University entry requirements for a Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Check your eligibility here:

<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/study/apply/research/doctor>

For enquiries and to apply, please forward a covering letter, your curriculum vitae (please include evidence of research writing) and academic transcripts to:

Kendra Whiteman

Higher Education Manager

Agriculture Victoria Research
kendra.whiteman@agriculture.vic.gov.au

**Closing date for applications: until
filled**



Investigating the use of biological control in almond IPM

Australia's almond crops suffer significant economic damage from two pests, carob moth (*Ectomyelois ceratoniae*) and almond carpophilus beetle (*Carpophilus truncatus*). The almond industry is eager to adopt sustainable approaches to effectively manage these two pests and is currently developing integrated pest management (IPM) strategies that reduce or avoid the reliance on chemical pesticides. Central to this approach is an understanding of the diversity and ecology of natural enemies that feed on these two major pests, and the development of biological control strategies that can be used in almond IPM.

Agriculture Victoria and Hort Innovation are funding an exciting PhD project to:

- Explore the natural enemy diversity in Australian almonds,
- Understand the effects of orchard practices on natural enemies,
- Identify potential species for biological control of key almond pests.

The successful candidate will be supervised by A/Prof Paul Cunningham and Dr Francesco Martoni from the School of Applied Systems Biology, La Trobe University. External co-supervision through Ag Vic project Lead, Dr Samantha Edley and Dr Greg Lefoe. (Agriculture Victoria).

This project will help shape the future of integrated pest management in the Australian almond industry. Through collaboration with a diverse team of researchers, entomologists, taxonomists, bioinformaticians, and industry partners, the student will receive comprehensive training, and access to cutting-edge techniques and skills that are in high demand within academia and industry.

