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*The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*



**LUI BELL MEMORIAL POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP FOR MARINE SPECIES CONSERVATION**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

1. **Background:**

To honour the life and work of Lui Bell and his commitment to the conservation of marine species in the Pacific, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) established the Lui Bell Memorial (LBM) Scholarship in 2013. The scholarship is designed to support the delivery of the SPREP 2013 - 2017 Marine Species Action Plan[[1]](#footnote-1) (MSAP) and aims to develop the expertise of Pacific Island nationals in areas related to the conservation and management of dugongs, marine turtles, and cetaceans. Recognising the increasing severity of the threats posed to sharks, the LBM Scholarship will also look to supporting studies in this field.

1. **Scope of the LBM Scholarship:**

The scholarship:

1. is open to Pacific island students from SPREP member countries[[2]](#footnote-2).
2. covers the disciplines of marine biology, environmental science, marine science, climate change and environmental law for postgraduate qualifications.
3. is open to those who are under 40 years of age, to undertake full time post-graduate studies in marine species conservation at a recognized institution.
4. **LBM Scholarship Conditions:**
5. Candidates must be resident in one of the SPREP member countries.
6. The proposed area of study must be aligned to a priority action / theme of the SPREP 2013 - 2017 Marine Species Action Plan.
7. The scholarship will be awarded up to a maximum amount of US$20,000 per annum to cover tuition fees, necessary research and approved travel expenses for the student. Any additional costs above this total amount will need to be met by the student.
8. In the case of applicants who are already employed in the public sector, a letter confirming release of the applicant, if successful, from his/her duties by the relevant Public Service Commission for the term of the scholarship, is a requirement.
9. Successful candidates will, in normal circumstances, be expected to take up their place in the semester / trimester immediately following the award of a scholarship.
10. Extensions to the scholarship period and total grant awarded will only be considered in exceptional circumstances, demonstrably beyond the control of the student. Any application for such an extension must be submitted, with the support of the identified supervisor, for the approval of the Trust Board.
11. Students receiving a scholarship must provide a twice-yearly progress report to SPREP, via their university supervisor, and are also expected to participate in various workshops and seminars intended to further the aims of the scholarship. The award may be terminated and all allowances forfeited if the student fails to maintain adequate progress in academic courses or project research.
12. Students are expected to contribute (without additional payment) up to eight hours of work per week to the department hosting their research, normally in areas relating to their field of study, providing them with useful experience of university activities. This work requirement can be waived, in consultation between students and USP supervisor, especially when it might hamper or conflict with the student’s thesis research (for instance when this is based at a site away from campus).
13. Students may not engage in paid employment while enrolled in the scholarship scheme, except with the express permission of their supervisor and head of the relevant school.
14. **Operation of the LBM scholarship.**
15. Management:

The LBM Scholarship Trust Board will be established to manage the scholarship. This Trust Board will as a minimum, be comprised of the following:

* SPREP Director-General or nominee
* SPREP Finance Adviser
* SPREP Human Resources Adviser
* Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser
* A technical adviser to the SPREP Regional Marine Species Action Plan
* A senior marine science representative from an academic institution

 This Trust Board will meet at least twice annually - in June, to review the list of applicants and decide on the successful candidate or candidates; and in December, to review progress and discuss issues of concern to the scheme. The role of the Trust Board will be to:

* assess new applications based on the academic merit and relevance of proposals to marine species conservation, as well as the current/recent academic performance of applicants, their personal goals, and any other relevant factors (e.g. current roles and support, such as working for a government agency);
* to review the progress of existing scholarship holders to assess their suitability for continued support;
* oversee promotion of the scholarship and its objectives to ensure that funds are available on an ongoing basis.

Supported students will be required to submit their academic reports to the Trust Board who reserves the right to consult with the academic institution on matters of performance reporting.

1. Annual scholarship award cycle:
* Availability of the scholarship will be advertised in March of each year for awarding in the subsequent academic year, semester or trimester.
* Applications will close in May of each year and the successful applicant will be notified by August.
1. Assessment of the scholarships:

Applications will be assessed on the basis of academic standing of the applicant, academic and research potential, relevant work experience, alignment of proposal with priorities of the MSAP, potential to contribute to marine species conservation and management in SPREP member countries after graduation, comments from referees, supervisors and overall suitability for postgraduate study. Attention will also be given to appropriate balance of gender, academic discipline and geographical origin among the partner countries.

While the aim of the scholarship will be to provide for the entire post-graduate tenure, continued funding after the first year and any subsequent years will be dependent upon the student's performance in a given year to a maximum of two years support.

1. Supplementary awards process:

Where an applicant has some existing funding, an award may be made on a supplementary basis.

1. Administrative support and information flow:

Progress in implementing the scholarship will be reported in the SPREP annual report to the SPREP Meeting. This will include recognition of scholarship sponsors.

1. Scholarship funding arrangements:

Payments to successful applicants will be made direct to the appointed University on per term/semester basis. Payment for each semester will be dependent upon the submission of a positive academic progress report to the Trust Board.

**LUI BELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION FORM**

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| **1. Personal Details:**  |  |  |
| **Family name:**  | **Forename(s):** | **Title:** |
| **Gender:**  | **Date of Birth:**  | **Age:**  |
| **Permanent Address:**  | **Address for Correspondence:** |
| **Telephone:**  | **Fax:** |
| **Mobile Phone:** | **Email:** |
| **Country of birth:**  | **Citizenship:** |

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| **2. Title of Award Sought: (please tick as appropriate)** |
| **PG Certificate** | **PG Diploma** | **MSc** | **MEL** | **MA** | **PhD** |
| **Please indicate how you became aware of this postgraduate opportunity.** |

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| **3. Proposed Research Topic & Supervisory Arrangements:** |
| **a) Title or Statement of your proposed research topic:** **b) Alignment to the SPREP 2013 - 2017 Marine Species Action Plan:** *(Please identify where possible particular action(s) in the MSAP to which your studies will be aligned.)***c) Have you discussed your Research Proposal with any Academic Staff Member at your identified academic institution?****[ ]  Yes** **[ ]  No****If YES, whom did you meet, when and what advice were you given?** |

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| **4. College Or University Education:** |
| From/To | Institution | Final Year Subjects | Qualification(BA,BSc, etc) | Precise Category/Grade of Award | Date of Conferral |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Please give details of prizes, medals, scholarships, awards received.** |

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| **5. Relevant Work Experience: (Add additional page if necessary)** |
| *Employment or life experiences are used in assessing candidates for certain research programmes. Please outline relevant aspects of such experiences that you feel qualify you for consideration for this scholarship.* |

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| **6. Research Experience / Project Work (if relevant)** |
| *Present an overview of any previous research project work you may have carried out either at undergraduate or postgraduate level or in previous employment. State briefly the project title and objectives, an outline of the methodology used and any relevant output (e.g. publications / patents / level of award)* |

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| **7. Personal Statement: (Maximum word count 500. Add additional page if required)** |
| *State briefly why you are interested in this scholarship and indicate the nature of research you would prefer and what you hope to gain from it.* |
| **8. Academic Reference:** |  |  |
| *(Please provide the name and address of a senior person acquainted with your academic work who is prepared to write on your behalf indicating your academic fitness and general suitability to undertake the course for which you are applying)* |
| **Name:**  | **Title:** |
| **Address:**  | **Tel:**  | **Email:** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **9. Checklist:** |  |  |
| Have you attached the following documents to this application?* Transcript of your results
* Admission letter from academic institution for programme of study.
* If relevant, PSC letter to support release from work commitments to pursue studies.

Applications without these attachments will be deemed invalid.  |

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| **10. Declaration:** |  |  |
| I declare that the information provided by me in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and judgement.Signature: Date: Please submit completed application form by 31 May 2014 to: Michael DonoghueThreatened and Migratory Species AdviserSPREPPO Box 240ApiaSAMOAmichaeld@sprep.orgph: +685 21929 ext 281fax: +685 203231  |



1. www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/Marine\_Species\_Programme\_2013-2017.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)