

## **PhD & MSc positions in Radio Astronomy available in New Zealand**

With the increasing interest in radio astronomy both globally and in the Asia Pacific region, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand has recently established a radio astronomy group to expand our existing astrophysical research team. Current areas of astrophysical research covered at VUW include stellar astronomy and astrophysics, early Solar System chronology & cosmochemistry, cosmology and astrophysical signal processing. The establishment of the new radio astronomy group in one of New Zealand's highest ranked physical sciences schools will build on these existing strengths and further New Zealand's involvement in future international projects and research.

As part of this initiative an exciting opportunity now exists and we are seeking high quality applicants to undertake PhD & MSc projects in radio astronomy related to future developments in Australasia, and in particular to facilitate New Zealand's engagement in future instruments such as ASKAP and the SKA. Currently we are accepting applications from students for a prestigious Vice Chancellor's Strategic PhD Scholarship as well as applications for several other PhD positions in collaboration with researchers in Australia, Germany and France.

Applications for PhD (3 year) or MSc (2 year) positions are open to students of any nationality who have completed honours (first class) or Masters in astrophysics, physics, mathematics and/or engineering. Interested students are encouraged to contact Dr Melanie Johnston-Hollitt, in advance of the application deadlines, to discuss the full range of projects available: [Melanie.Johnston-Hollitt@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Melanie.Johnston-Hollitt@vuw.ac.nz). Details of Vice Chancellor's strategic PhD Scholarship are available on the following website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/scholarships/stratresschol.aspx>

The closing date is 15 May 2009 and further information on the application procedure can be obtained from Philippa Hay (Scholarships Manager): [Philippa.hay@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Philippa.hay@vuw.ac.nz). The closing date for all other PhD and MSc projects is 15 June 2009 for an expected start in the second half of the year.

The positions will be based in Wellington, New Zealand with expected collaborative visits to international partners. Further information about living in Wellington, one of the world's most vibrant and livable cities, is available here: <http://www.wellingtonnz.com/>

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