

PhD Project – Sensory Ecology

Commencing 2023

Supervisors: Amanda Franklin & Devi Stuart-Fox
University of Melbourne

<https://devistuartfox.com/>

<https://findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/profile/413220-amanda-franklin>

<https://biosciences.unimelb.edu.au/>



We are seeking a PhD student to join a supportive and diverse research team investigating the perception and function of iridescence and gloss. The project is supervised and supported by Dr Amanda Franklin and Prof Devi Stuart-Fox. The student would be based in the School of BioSciences at the University of Melbourne with scope to collaborate more widely.

Project Description

Iridescence and gloss are common throughout nature resulting in many dynamic and changeable visual effects. Despite the prevalence and long-term scientific interest in these dynamic visual effects, we have limited understanding of how animals perceive iridescent or glossy colours, and the function of these effects. The aim of this project is to use behavioral studies with different animals (e.g. beetles, jumping spiders, birds) to uncover links between perception and function of dynamic visual effects. The project can be flexible and align with the interests of the student, but would likely involve field work to collect animals and behavioural field and lab studies. The student will be an integral part of the team and will have the opportunity to develop their own research interests throughout their PhD.

Location

The University of Melbourne is situated just north of central Melbourne, and is surrounded by good restaurants, bars, cafes. Melbourne always has something to see or do, including galleries, music, theatre, or sport. You will have the opportunity to see what Melbourne has to offer with the supportive team of students, postdocs and academics that you will join. The School of BioSciences hosts a vibrant, diverse research community and provides access to cutting edge equipment.

Requirements

The successful applicant will be assisted in applying for a [Graduate Research Scholarship](#). These awards are competitive, so a First-class Honours or Masters Degree (or equivalent) or publication in international journals is essential.

To apply, please send 1) A brief letter outlining your research interests, 2) a CV, 3) your academic transcript/grades, 4) contact details for two referees (including a research supervisor). **Please send materials to Amanda by August 15th September 2022.**

Any questions or for further information, please contact Amanda Franklin, amandaf@unimelb.edu.au

