

## SCIENTIA PHD SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE AT UNSW

### Consequences of climate change for ecosystem functions in tropicalised coastlines

**PROJECT SYNOPSIS:** Climate change is driving a universal redistribution of species on Earth. In marine systems, ocean warming is causing the decline of kelp forests in Australia and globally. This loss of kelp is mediated by direct effects of warming and by increases in herbivory by range-expanding tropical fishes. As a consequence, temperate kelp forests are being replaced by low-biomass algal turfs, and associated ecological communities are becoming increasingly 'tropicalised'. Despite these tropicalisation patterns being a pervasive phenomenon globally, the consequences of these shifts to important ecosystem functions remain to be established. This project will quantify the impact of kelp loss and tropicalisation on two key ecosystem functions: primary productivity and fish productivity. This will provide crucial information for the development of climate change adaptation strategies in near shore marine environments.

Supervisory team: Dr Adriana Vergés, Dr Suhelen Egan, Prof Peter Steinberg

A brand new UNSW Scientia PhD scholarship is now available with spectacular conditions for the right applicant to work on this project:

- AU\$40,000/ year stipend for FOUR years, in addition to tuition fees
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- Coaching and mentoring will form a critical part of a highly personalised leadership development plan

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST APPLICATIONS DUE BY 21st July 2017

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