



PhD project opportunity in penguin ecology and conservation at Monash University, Australia

This PhD project is part of a research program on the foraging ecology of little penguins at St Kilda led by [Associate Professor Richard Reina](#) of Monash University and [Associate Professor \(adjunct\) Andre Chiaradia](#) from the Phillip Island Nature Parks. We are seeking an outstanding student of ecology with experience in field activities, strong analytical skills and capacity to work independently. The project focuses on understanding how penguins are responding to changes in their environment and provides a unique opportunity to work with a charismatic species living in Port Phillip Bay.

The project is available immediately and is based in the [School of Biological Sciences](#) at [Monash University](#) in Melbourne, Australia. Fieldwork will be undertaken at St Kilda, Victoria, and field training will be provided at Phillip Island. Monash University is one of Australia's largest and most research-intensive universities, with approximately 75,000 students enrolled, including about 5,000 enrolled in research PhDs. A PhD by research in Australia is expected to be completed in a maximum of four years, with minor coursework requirements.

Key aspects of the project will be to:

- Determine penguin distribution within Port Phillip Bay, adding to several years of penguin tracking already available
- Examine whether penguin habitat usage has changed over time how birds have responded to environmental changes
- Design an experimental plan to incorporate new bio-logging technique to further knowledge of spatial distribution and usage of the marine environment
- Develop opportunities to engage citizen scientists in field research
- Provide spatial information to identify and minimise conflicts between penguins and human activities for the long term viability of the penguin population at St Kilda

How to apply:

Interested PhD applicants will need experience in ecology and conservation biology, although not necessarily with seabirds. [To apply](#) for the PhD at Monash, you will need to have an Honours or Masters degree with a minimum one-year research component. A track record of scientific publication is a major advantage in obtaining a scholarship. English language requirements apply to international students. While there are several scholarship rounds each year, applications can be made at any time with support from the proposed supervisor.

To express interest in applying, please email richard.reina@monash.edu You will need to provide a full CV, a statement of research interest, a copy of your academic transcript and your English language test scores if your language of instruction was not English. In your statement of research interest, you will need to explain how your background makes you suitable to undertake the project and what you know about the topic.

The deadline for expressions of interest is August 30th, 2019.

For an overview of some of this research visit richardreina.com and [penguin research](#)