



Language and Culture Research Centre

Director: Distinguished Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

Deputy Director: Professor R. M. W. Dixon

Come and work in an exotic location, investigating a language which has never previously been described!

PHD SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE RESEARCH CENTRE, JCU, AUSTRALIA

Applications are invited, from suitably qualified students, to enter the PhD program of the Language and Culture Research Centre at James Cook University Australia. Supervision will be provided by Professors Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, R. M. W. Dixon, Dr Valérie Guérin, Dr Elena Mihas and Dr Simon Overall.

Our PhD candidates generally undertake extensive fieldwork on a previously undescribed (or scarcely described) language and write a comprehensive grammar of it for their dissertation. They are expected to work on a language which is still actively spoken, and to establish a field situation within a community in which it is the first language. Their first fieldtrip lasts for six to nine months. After completing a first draft of the grammar, back in Cairns, they undertake a second fieldtrip of two to three months. Fieldwork methodology centres on the collection, transcription and analysis of texts, together with participant observation, and — at a later stage — judicious grammatical elicitation in the language under description (not through the lingua franca of the country). Our main priority areas are the Papuan and Austronesian languages of New Guinea and surrounding areas and the languages of tropical Amazonia. However, we do not exclude applicants who have an established interest in languages from other areas (which need not necessarily lie within the tropics).

PhDs in Australian universities generally involve no coursework, just a substantial dissertation. Candidates must thus have had thorough coursework training before embarking on this PhD program. This should have included courses on morphology, syntax, semantics, and phonology/phonetics, taught from a non-formalist perspective. We place emphasis on work that has a sound empirical basis but also shows a firm theoretical orientation (in terms of general typological theory, or what has recently come to be called basic linguistic theory).

Distinguished Professor Alexandra (Sasha) Aikhenvald is Australian Laureate Fellow and Research Leader for People and Societies of the Tropics. Together with Professor R. M. W. Dixon, she heads the Language and Culture Research Centre, which includes Research Fellows and a growing number of doctoral students. In addition, senior scholars from across the world opt to spend their sabbatical at the Language and Culture Research Centre.

The LCRC has strong links with anthropologists, archaeologists and educationalists, with scholars working on environmental issues, all within James Cook University. Further information is available at <http://www.jcu.edu.au/lcrc/>

The scholarship will be at the standard James Cook University rate, Australian \$25,849 pa. Students coming from overseas are liable for a tuition fee; but this may be waived in the case of a



student of high merit. A small relocation allowance may be provided on taking up the scholarship. In addition, an adequate allowance will be made to cover fieldwork expenses and conference attendance.

The scholarship is for three years (with the possibility of a six month extension). The deadline for application by international students (starting in 2015) is 31 August 2015; the deadline for students with Australian and New Zealand passports is 31 October 2015.

Successful applicants would take up their PhD scholarships between January and June 2016. (The academic year in Australia runs from February to November.)

The application procedures for international students can be found at:

http://www.jcu.edu.au/grs/scholarships/JCUDEV_014949.html

Scholarship application form and procedures for international students can be found at: <http://www.jcu.edu.au/international/apply/index.htm>

Prospective applicants are invited, in the first place, to get in touch with Professor Aikhenvald at Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au, providing details of their background, qualifications and interests (including a curriculum vitae). Applicants are advised to send samples of their written work in linguistics (at least some of this should be in English).



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