



Language and Culture Research Centre

Director: Distinguished Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

Deputy Director: Professor R. M. W. Dixon

Cairns Institute Building, JCU, PO Box 6811,
Cairns Qld 4870 Australia

Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au

ANNOUNCEMENT

PHD SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE RESEARCH CENTRE

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

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 Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, Professor R. M. W. Dixon, Professor Rosita Henry, Dr Luca Ciucci, and Dr Michael Wood, all highly experienced in documenting languages and cultures of the tropics and with a substantial record of publications in the relevant fields.

Our PhD candidates generally undertake extensive immersion 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 involve some coursework and 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, and 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 \$27,082 pa. Students coming from overseas are liable for a tuition fee; but this will be waived if scholarship is awarded. 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 and a half years. The deadline for application (starting in 2021) is 30 September 2020.

Successful applicants would take up their PhD scholarships between January and June 2021. (The academic year in Australia runs from February to November.)

Application form and procedures for international students can be found at: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/graduate-research-school/candidates/postgraduate-research-scholarships> (JCUPRS scholarships). The applications are expected to be open in July 2020.

Prospective applicants are invited, in the first place, to get in touch with Professor Alexandra 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).