



School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences

## Summer Vacation Research Project

**Project Title:** Fire and the regeneration of plants: seed germination and soil properties

**Supervisors:** Drs Mark Ooi and Miriam Muñoz-Rojas

**Project:** In fire-prone vegetation, many plant species produce seeds which are dormant and held in a soil seed bank. Dormancy and germination of seeds is cued to fire, resulting in a pulse of seedling recruitment post-fire. Understanding the mechanisms controlling germination, and the role that abiotic factors such as temperature and soil properties play in determining the timing and abundance of regeneration, is essential for conservation management of fire-prone ecosystems. This work will feed into a broader project which aims to reduce risk to plant species at threaten from risk of extinction.

In this project, you will undertake an experiment to assess seed dormancy mechanisms and the effects of soil pH on seedling growth. This will involve both field and laboratory work and would suit someone who is keen on both, and willing to learn about how ecological research can lead to a better understanding of our natural ecosystems.

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