Project overview

Project title

Developing a technical framework for testing printed solar technology

Project description

Help shape the future of solar energy. This iPhD project will develop a new technical framework for testing printed solar technologies, an emerging class of ultra-lightweight, flexible photovoltaics. Current international standards were designed for traditional, rigid panels and don't adequately address the unique characteristics of printed solar. Your research will fill this gap, leading to new testing methods that could accelerate the commercial adoption of printed solar and enable its use on structures that can't support conventional panels. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the next generation of clean energy technologies with real-world impact.

Supervisory team

University

Name of university supervisor	Paul Dastoor
Name of university	University of Newcastle
Email address	Paul.Dastoor@newcastle.edu.au
Faculty	College of Engineering, Science and Environment

CSIRO

Name of CSIRO supervisor	Dr Chris Fell
Email address	chris.fell@csiro.au
CSIRO Research Unit	Energy

Industry

Name of industry supervisor	Sam Clifton
Name of business/organisation	Kardinia Energy Pty Ltd
Email address	sam@kardinia.energy

Further details

Primary location of student	CSIRO Newcastle, 10 Murray Dwyer Circuit, Mayfield West NSW 2304, Australia
Industry engagement component location	Kardinia Energy Pty Ltd, 70 Vale Street, Shortland NSW 2307, Australia
Other locations	The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia
Ideal student skillset	A bachelor's degree in science (ideally physics) or engineering (ideally electrical), plus a strong aptitude for technology and a desire to become a researcher. Previous experience or exposure to solar photovoltaics research will be an advantage.
Application close date	Open until position filled
Apply	Contact Paul Dastoor

CSIRO Industry PhD Program details

The Opportunity

The CSIRO Industry PhD Program (iPhD) is a four-year research training program, focusing on applied research that benefits industry by solving real-world challenges. It aims to produce the next generation of innovation leaders with the skills to work at the interface of research and industry in Australia.

The Program includes:

a) Admission to a university PhD program.
b) Supervision by the participating university, CSIRO, and an industry partner.
c) A four-year scholarship package totalling approximately $48,000 per annum tax exempt (2026 rate).
d) A four-year Project Expense and Development package starting from $13,000 per annum.
e) A 60-day Industry Engagement component with the industry partner.
f) A structured professional development and training program to develop your applied research skills.

Successful students are subject to the policies, procedures and guidelines of the participating university in addition to the CSIRO Industry PhD Program terms and conditions. Students will receive a standard PhD on completion.

Eligibility Requirements

The student must:

a) Be an Australian citizen or Permanent Resident, or a New Zealand citizen.
b) Meet participating university PhD admission requirements.
c) Meet university English language requirements.
d) Not have previously completed a PhD.
e) Be able to commence the Program in the year of the offer.
f) Enrol as a full-time PhD student. Part-time arrangements may be considered if approved by the supervisory team and in accordance with university policy.
g) Be prepared to be located at the project location(s) that the host university has approved and, if required, comply with the host university's external enrolment procedures.
h) Be prepared to undergo onboarding to CSIRO, which will include passing mandatory government background checks (allow for between 4 to 8 weeks) and complete any other CSIRO requirements.

Application Process

a) Applicants are required to submit an expression of interest (EOI) following the instructions detailed on the participating university's webpage.
b) The EOI is assessed by the supervisory team and shortlisted applicants are interviewed.
c) The supervisory team nominates a preferred applicant and informs iPhD office and GRS (or equivalent).

Further information

- Visit our website
- Contact your Graduate Research School
- Contact the iPhD team and Subscribe to our newsletter