

What if I am an international student?

Because the degrees are flexibly delivered, international students can complete the degrees without leaving home, however, you will still need to undertake the one week residential. If you are currently or potentially based in Australia, you cannot enrol in the degree as the full external delivery conflicts with Australian student visa requirements.

Will the qualification be recognised internationally?

The Masters of Plant Biosecurity has been developed in consultation with representatives from Canada, United States, New Zealand and Australia. When you graduate from the program you can do so with the knowledge that your degree will be recognised by the relevant organisations in those countries.

What will it cost?

Costs have yet to be finalised and may vary slightly depending on the institution in which you enrol. However, for full-time Australian domestic students, costs will be around \$2,500 per unit (total of \$10,000 for Certificate, \$20,000 for Diploma and \$30,000 for Masters)*. Australian students may be eligible for funding assistance under the Commonwealth Government scheme FEE-HELP.

** these costs are a guide only and are subject to change*

Where can I find more information?

Go to www.crcplantbiosecurity.com.au and click on 'education'.

Photo acknowledgments:

Cover: 1. Sugarcane smut, Dr Roger Shivas, Qld DPI&F; 2. Khapra beetle, Simon Hinkley and Ken Walker, Museum of Victoria; 3. Covered smut of wheat, Dr Roger Shivas, Qld DPI&F; 4. Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia. Inside: Citrus Canker, Glynn Maynard DAFF



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Postgraduate study in plant biosecurity



Postgraduate degrees in plant biosecurity

Biosecurity is a growing field of activity for many professionals involved in agriculture, the environment and international and domestic trade. This growth is driven by the need to maintain agricultural and environmental integrity in a world where, due to ever increasing levels of trade and human movement, exotic plant affecting organisms pose major and ongoing threats.

Biosecurity is central to the management of these threats, with a continuum of activities involving off-shore risk analysis, quarantine and surveillance to stop the entry of exotic organisms, rapid emergency response in the event of an exotic incursion, and then the management of pest organisms if they permanently establish and impact on trade.

The cost of even a single exotic incursion can be immense: for example, the entry and establishment of the exotic wheat disease Karnal bunt, would cost Australia \$1 billion per year in lost income. High profile and costly recent incursions to Australia include citrus canker, sugar-cane smut disease and red imported fire ant.

Graduate capabilities

Graduates will gain knowledge and understanding of plant biosecurity at levels that are internationally recognised and at the highest level of industry requirement. We will develop your ability to analyse, evaluate and synthesise information from scientific and regulatory sources, and apply effective solutions to problems with changing contexts.

What qualifications are offered?

Recognised tertiary qualifications in Plant Biosecurity: *Graduate Certificate in Plant Biosecurity* (6 months full time); *Graduate Diploma in Plant Biosecurity* (12 months full time) and *Masters in Plant Biosecurity* (18 or 24 months full time).

What content will be covered in the qualifications?

Graduate Certificate

- Biosecurity Plant Pests - Invertebrates*
- Biosecurity Plant Pests - Pathogens*
- Biosecurity Plant Pests - Weeds*
- Detection and Diagnostics
- Plant Biosecurity in practice

**choose two from three*

Graduate Diploma

- Invasion Biology: Ecological foundations of biosecurity
- Risk assessment
- Community engagement and participation
- Policy Framework Obligations

Masters

- Industry-based research project

Individual selection of assignment topics and research project by the student can allow for in-depth learning in areas of particular importance to themselves or their employer.

What are the entry requirements and upgrade possibilities?

Direct entry into the Graduate Diploma and Masters requires an existing university degree, but entry can be gained into the Graduate Certificate based on professional standing. The successful student can exit the program after 6, 12 or 18 months with a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma respectively, or can articulate upwards with full credit from the previous award. A student entering without a first degree will need to do a 12 month, rather than six month, research project.

How will the material be delivered?

All material will be fully flexibly delivered using the latest on-line technology. Most units will be self-paced and assessment items will use relevant work-place examples. A one-week residential will be taken by all students as part of the unit *Detection and Diagnosis*.

Which institutions will offer these degrees?

Degrees delivered by a consortium of leading Australian universities: Charles Darwin University, LaTrobe University, Murdoch University, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Adelaide.

Citrus canker, a continuing exotic threat to Australia's citrus industry

