



# S & A Student Programs

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(Presented by George Hobbs)

Australia's National Science Agency





# Current major programs

## **Co-supervised Postgraduate students:**

- Majority PhDs
- Some Masters and Honours
- Mostly Australian universities, a few overseas – Japan, US, China, India, UK
- Ad hoc recruitment at present

## **Undergraduate Vacation Studentships:**

- Typically ~ 15 students pa
- Paid (CSOF 1.1)
- Not just ATNF Science projects
- This year on 4 sites



# Other programs

## **Women in Engineering scholars:**

- Currently trial program with Macquarie Uni, 2 students
- Scope for more at other institutions

## **Offer pending for an Indigenous Research Fellowship:**

New CSIRO program

- Fulltime PhD program for Indigenous student, employed as staff member

## **Supporting other Uni programs:**

- eg Macquarie Uni PACE program



# Co-supervised students

2022-23 Annual report:

- Supervised 30 PhD, 4 MRes, 1 Hons students
- Students from 16 different universities incl 4 international (China, Japan, UK, USA)
- 9 PhDs, 3 MRes, 2 Hons theses awarded

<https://www.atnf.csiro.au/research/student/index.html>



# Co-supervised students as of October 2023

- 34 students from 17 different universities (4 international)
- 14 Female: 20 Male
- 30 PhD
- 3 MRes
- 1 Hons
- 2 students have joined since June, 2 have submitted PhDs, 1 has had MRes accepted

<https://www.atnf.csiro.au/research/student/index.html>



# 2023-24 Undergraduate Vacation Studentships

- 20 November 2023 – 2 February 2024 core dates
- 14 students + 1 Women in Engineering from 10 universities
- ~50:50 gender split
- Placements in Kensington, Tidbinbilla, Parkes, Black Mountain & Marsfield
- Observing trip to Narrabri



# Postgraduate student program review

- Student feedback survey complete
- Review paused pending higher-level CSIRO-wide review of student programs, S&A have provided input and information to this review
- CSIRO and university supervisor survey will be sent out shortly:
- ATUC input for any specific questions or issues welcome



# Student survey feedback

- 25 responses
- Satisfaction ratings (1 poor – 5 excellent) all questions had average of > 4.0
- Average for overall experience 4.60
- “Would you recommend to other students? Average 4.88
- Strong interest in Student Symposium – need to find suitable dates
- Rolling out dedicated MatterMost channel for student discussion/issues





# Student survey and review actions

- Identify and develop training opportunities for students in line with new OE model
- Several students participated in ATNF Radio School
- Plan student symposium in 2024 – students to lead
- Review student benefits, eg travel funding
- Explore other options, eg Industry PhDs



# Student coordination

Student Coordinator:  
Robert Hollow

Admin Support:  
Leanne Edwards

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# Questions

- How do we make ATNF co-supervision attractive to astronomy students?  
What can we offer our students?
- How can we attract / retain diverse students – particularly Indigenous?
- What works or are strengths of our current program?
- What could/should we be doing better?
- What should we expect from our students? (Include any service obligations here)
- How can we expand our range of supervised projects?
- How can we better support students?



# Thank you

## **Space and Astronomy**

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