

# Postgraduate Studentship Programme

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SCRI has developed a thriving postgraduate research programme which offers a broad range of training opportunities to students from the UK, the EU and the rest of the world. The research environment at SCRI is unique in that it covers the full scope of plant and environmental studies from fundamental to more applied aspects. Our research, therefore, has impact on the academic science base as well as on both commercial companies and policy makers. This breadth enables postgraduate students to be exposed to a broad range of plant, crop and environmental science and thereby to place their own more focussed research into context. This is an extremely valuable component of their overall training.

The primary aim of the postgraduate training provided by SCRI is to equip the individual students with a wide range of modern scientific skills whilst developing technical and intellectual competence that can be applied in a range of scientific careers. Delivery of this training and personal development is sensitively monitored and supported to ensure that each individual student achieves the highest standards of intellectual flexibility, whilst presenting a comprehensive range of scientific and transferable skills demanded by today's employers of trained scientists. Past graduates are to be found as far afield as research organisations in Australia, Kenya

and the USA as well as making a major contribution to the research base of Scotland and the UK. Indeed some have gone on to become valued colleagues and collaborators.

Students at SCRI are registered at a number of universities across the UK, depending on funding sources and the need to identify university supervisors with the necessary scientific skills and knowledge. However, a significant proportion of our students are locally registered at the University of Dundee with whom SCRI has established a partnership embodied by the location of the University of Dundee Plant Science Unit on the SCRI campus. The relationship with the University of Dundee also includes a special arrangement whereby all postgraduate students at SCRI, independent of the university at which the student is registered, have access to and can use the facilities available at the University of Dundee, including English language tuition, training courses, library, scientific facilities and counselling.

A major new feature of SCRI's postgraduate training for the 2006/2007 academic year has been the creation of a new Joint Studentship Programme with UK Universities. This Programme is aimed at developing new collaborative links and interactions with university groups across the country, and, in particular, with Scottish Universities. The second round of studentships, to begin in



2007, is currently underway and there will eventually be up to 30 jointly funded students. The Programme represents a major investment in training scientists of the future who will play key roles in developing the science that will be required to meet major challenges such as global warming and loss of biodiversity. This commitment also reflects the valuable role that each new cohort of postgraduate students plays in bringing 'new blood' to stimulate the research environment across the Institute. The new scheme has also provided exciting opportunities to broaden our existing science base by, for example, combining the expertise in the chemistry and biochemistry of plant compounds at SCRI with diet

and health expertise in university research groups in new multi-disciplinary areas of science.

In addition to students funded under the Joint Studentship Programme SCRI has students funded through a diverse mix of grants, contracts and studentships and we welcome enquires from overseas applicants funded by their own government schemes. We particularly value this diversity and in turn students find working in Dundee brings many benefits. These include a "high quality of life" that comes from living in a location with excellent access to beautiful countryside and the facilities of all Scotland's cities.