Fully funded PhD project available in marine community ecology

Interconnected waterways: How do estuarine outputs affect coastal reef communities?

Estuaries receive a range of anthropogenic and natural inputs which can be transported to nearshore coastal environments. However, very little is known about how estuarine outputs affect coastal biodiversity. A PhD project is available to investigate how proximity to estuaries influences rocky-shore communities and whether these influences differ according to the level of human disturbance in the estuarine catchment.

The project will be part of Sydney Harbour Research Program (SHRP) at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) and provide important information that will feed into the New South Wales Environmental Monitoring Program. Thus the student will work closely with researchers at UNSW, the NSW Department of Primary Industries and SIMS.

The successful PhD student will be supervised by Assoc. Prof. Paul Gribben, Dr. Ezequiel (Ziggy) Marzinelli (UNSW) and Dr. Tim Glasby (NSW DPI). The student will be based at the Centre for Marine BioInnovation (UNSW) and will also utilise the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS), one of the premier marine science institutes in Australia, which has extensive facilities for conducting ecological experiments and analyses.

The PhD is fully funded and the student will be paid the equivalent of an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) at UNSW. A $5000/yr top-up scholarship will be available in addition to the APA. Students with experience in experimental marine ecology are encouraged to apply. Applicants will have a relevant 1st Class Honours or MSc degree. The preferred starting date is early or mid-2017.

Closing date for expressions of interest is 30 April, 2017. Please submit a cover letter and a comprehensive CV with contact details for two referees to: Assoc. Prof. Paul Gribben at p.gribben@unsw.edu.au