Antimicrobial resistance is designated by the World Health Organisation as a global health emergency. Multidrug resistant pathogens not only infect humans, they also occur in wildlife, livestock, and companion animals, and can be transmitted between species. The burden of these infections is adding an additional challenge to wildlife conservation efforts worldwide.

A scholarship opportunity exists for a PhD student to undertake research into the microbiome and resistance profiles of resident and migratory bird species in the northern Adelaide coastal zone. The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park provides a key feeding and roosting site for tens of thousands of birds which migrate annually along the East-Asian-Australasian flyway. Data will be collected to investigate correlations between local habitat and water quality and bird health. The role of birds in harboring and transporting antimicrobial resistant bacteria and genes to/from natural wetlands and human-impacted habitats such as wastewater treatment lagoons will also be assessed. The project will have close links with South Australian water industry and regulatory agencies, providing excellent end-user engaged research experience for the PhD candidate.

UniSA is committed to research that aligns with society’s grand challenges by coordinating research across traditional boundaries into a thematic approach. This project aligns closely with UniSA’s Healthy Futures research theme, working to create a sustainable and healthier country for all Australians by addressing some of the nation’s most pressing challenges.

This scholarship is a thematically-badged living stipend for domestic students (Australia and NZ) valued at $27,596 per annum.

Open to Australian and NZ citizens and permanent residents of Australia. Eligibility criteria for all PhDs can be found on the UniSA website: www.unisa.edu.au/research-degrees-eligibility

Contact Erica Donner (UniSA) or Steven Djordjevic (Ausgem) in the first instance, and then Apply Online: www.unisa.edu.au/research-degrees-apply

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