

2023

Environmental Legacy Foundation (ELF) Sustainability Honours Bursary



The Environmental Legacy Foundation (ELF) Sustainability Honours Bursary is offered to UniSC students enrolled in an Honours program with a focus on environmental sustainability.

We are pleased to introduce the 2023 recipient of the bursary and thank you for your support and partnership in creating opportunity through education.



Alexander Jarrett

Bachelor of Science (Honours)

Firstly, I would just like to thank you for your generous donation. This bursary will assist me greatly in advancing through my Science Honours degree. My Honours project falls under the category of marine science where I am focusing on the health of the reef along the Sunshine Coast of Queensland. My research involves observing and recording how the dynamic reef systems are constantly changing from the shifting sands and how the relationship between marine fish species and their habitat are influenced by this dynamic. Ecosystems and habitats along this coastal seascape can be exposed one year, and then completely covered by sand the next. I am exploring how this change will affect the complexity and connectivity of the ecosystem, and ultimately its influence on the fish species that occupy the habitat. Multiple fish species that reside in these habitats are often targeted by recreational and commercial fisheries, and we know the importance of the coastal habitats on these species' life cycle. I will be recording fish species I find, the benthos types along my transects as well as what percentage cover of each benthos type is along my transect. This sets a baseline study for the sunshine coast, as this has never been researched before. Next year, I or another student can research the area again, recording how the reef shape and size has changed and whether the fish community has changed as well. With this knowledge we will have a greater understanding of how our targeted fish species interact with a changing environment from year to year, ultimately understanding their distributions and movements. With this knowledge we can encourage and promote better conservation and management strategies to conserve the targeted species.

With your generous donation I hope to explore further opportunities to present my research. Several ecology conferences, including international locations, are on the horizon which I would love to attend and present my research. Your donation makes this possible covering travel fees, if I get accepted. If I do not get accepted I will use your donation to open other windows towards my PhD, assisting in my research this year, and furthering my research next year in my PhD. I will take every opportunity I can get, and your financial assistance allows me to grasp at the potential. Once again, I cannot express enough the gratitude I have for assisting in my academic journey.

Thankyou,

Alex Jarrett

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