

FASD Research Australia

Centre for Research Excellence

**POST-GRADUATE PhD SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

Background

The FASD Research Australia Centre of Research Excellence (the Centre) has been established by leaders in FASD research in Australia. Funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council for five years (2016-2020) the Centre aims to create new knowledge relating to reducing alcohol use during pregnancy and evidenced-based FASD therapy while also building FASD-related research capacity in Australia.

The Centre is currently seeking highly motivated and qualified applicants for three PhD Scholarships to commence in 2017. The scholarships will comprise a living allowance of $26, 000 per annum, in addition to a research/operating allowance of $3000. This allowance covers support to attend conferences and undertake relevant professional development.

Applicants will be required to apply for enrolment through an Australia university. The scholarship may be offered prior to this; however payment will not commence until candidature has been accepted.

Aims of the PhD Scholarships

The overarching aim of the FASD Research Australia scholarship is to generate new research for the benefit of the future families wanting to have healthy children and for those children and their families living with FASD in Australia. The specific aims of the scholarship are to:

* Increase the evidence base for FASD prevention and therapy
* Conduct research based on the priority themes identified by the Centre
* Build Australia’s research capacity in the area of alcohol and pregnancy & FASD

Value and Duration of the PhD Scholarship

The value of the Scholarship increases annually in accordance with indexation. In 2017, the PhD Scholarship provides the following:

* The opportunity to be supervised and/or mentored by one or more of the CRE Investigators
* A stipend of $26,800 per annum pro rata
* A training and education allowance of $3,000 per annum pro rata
* The standard duration of a research doctorate scholarships in the FASD Research Australia CRE is 3.5 years full-time. Candidates may apply for an extension in time only of up to six months subject to satisfactory progress and school approval.

Research Topics for the PhD Scholarships

The FASD Research Australia CRE Scholarships will focus on national research about understanding the behaviour of community members in relation to drinking alcohol during pregnancy, evaluating the adoption of new technology and improving our understanding of effective interventions for children living with FASD and their families. The following focus areas have been identified as a priority for these three new scholarships. Scholarship applicants are encouraged to align their research topic with one of these focus areas:

* Health promotion in schools, specifically for alcohol use in pregnancy and FASD
* Primary prevention to develop and test effective messaging
* Implementation Science: Evaluating changes to mandatory reporting
* Automated screening using eye-tracking technology
* Best-practice referral and advice for at risk pregnancies
* NDIS service access and navigation for families with a child with FASD
* Telehealth interventions: Developing digital tools for children with FASD and/or their parents and caregivers
* School-based interventions for children with FASD
* Very early intervention for infants with high-risk prenatal alcohol exposure
* Economic burden of FASD and/or economic evaluation of screening, diagnosis and support

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this Scholarship you must:

* Ordinarily have completed a bachelor degree with first class honours. If you do not have first class honours the Centre may determine that you have demonstrated an equivalent level of academic attainment.
* Apply for a full-time postgraduate research program at an Australian University
* Have or will apply for enrolment for the Doctor of Philosophy.

Selection Criteria

Candidates for the Scholarships will be assessed by the FASD Research Australia CRE PhD Selection Committee according to the following criteria:

1. The nomination of one or more of the FASD Research Australia CRE Telethon Kids Institute Post-Doctoral Researchers as a co-Supervisor (essential)
2. Alignment of research proposal to the research topics identified for the Scholarship
3. Academic and professional performance as demonstrated by the candidate’s Academic transcripts and Curriculum Vitae
4. Ability to prioritise tasks and complete projects on time
5. Proficient communication skills and interpersonal working relations

How to Apply

The application and selection process for the Scholarships includes the following stages

Stage 1: Contact your host institution, primary supervisor and CRE Post-Doc supervisor to discuss the research topic

Stage 2: Complete the application form, submit with other required documents by 30th June 2017

Stage 2: Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview in mid July 2017

Stage 3: Offer to the successful candidates will be made by late-July 2017

More information

For more information on the process or contact details for CRE Investigators and Post-Doctoral Researchers please contact Program Manager Narelle Mullan:

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