



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Graduate Research Opportunities – Place, Health and Liveability Research Program

Four capable and highly motivated PhD and Masters students are being sought for scholarships available through the Place, Health and Liveability Research Program, a joint program of the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning and the School of Population Health (McCaughey VicHealth Centre for Mental Health and Community Wellbeing)

The successful applicants will work within an exciting newly established multidisciplinary research program between the urban planning program in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning and the McCaughey VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, with established national and international links. Two PhD students will work on a partnership with the Victorian Department of Health (North West Region), and one PhD and one Master of Philosophy student will work nationally with researchers from the University of Western Australia, the University of Queensland, the Queensland University of Technology and/or the Centre of Excellence in Intervention and Prevention Science on various projects, including an economic evaluation of the internationally recognised RESIDE project.

Healthy and liveable communities are those with: (1) adequate and affordable housing for individuals and families; (2) pedestrian-friendly infrastructure that facilitate walking, cycling and public transport access; (3) local work and educational opportunities; (4) open space and other recreational opportunities; (4) a range of social services; and (5) access to healthy food options. These kinds of communities provide the basis for social equity, harmony, economic resilience, and environmental and social sustainability. This program of research seeks to study neighbourhoods with the aim of informing policies and practices to create healthy and liveable communities. Some of Australia's fastest-growing areas will be included in this research. The program will examine how current state and planning policies support or discourage these social determinants of health and will seek to inform future policy development to produce better outcomes.

Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents and must meet the University's selection criteria for entry to the PhD or Masters of Philosophy. These can be viewed at: <http://www.gradresearch.unimelb.edu.au/current/phd/bk/admission.html>.

Australian Postgraduate Awards (two PhD scholarships): Place, Health and Wellbeing

Applications are invited from suitably qualified applicants for two PhD scholarships to commence studies no later than 31 May 2012. Applicants must have the equivalent of a four-year degree with first class honours. Students will be jointly supervised by Associate Professor Carolyn Whitzman (urban planning) and Professor Billie Giles-Corti (population health). This research will capitalize on a partnership between health, planning and design researchers at the University of Melbourne and policy makers in the Victorian state government as well as several local governments, investigating the links between place, health and wellbeing. The overall goal of the partnership is to improve evidence-based planning policy that can build healthy and sustainable communities in Victoria. The focus will be on three types of growth areas: those in the central city (generally high income high density developments), those in middle suburbs (generally low income mid density developments), and those in outer suburbs (generally high income low density developments).

Scholarship 1

One project will focus on the development of a GIS-based 'social determinants of health' index and examine its relationship with existing health outcome data. Applicants should have a background in quantitative research, preferably in population health, geography, geographic information systems (GIS) or urban planning, and/or an ability and willingness to develop skills in GIS.

Scholarship 2

The other project will focus on the development of an integrated planning policy matrix that tests the extent to which local and state planning policies on transport, land use and health reinforce the social determinants of health. Applicants should have a background in policy-related research, preferably in urban planning, public policy, or population health.

These scholarships are valued at \$27,000 p.a. for three years. In addition to this, up to \$5500 p.a. is available to support project costs, fieldwork and conference attendance. For further information, contact Associate Professor Carolyn Whitzman, whitzman@unimelb.edu.au

PhD Scholarship: Built Environment and Health

Scholarship 3

Applications are invited from suitably qualified applicants to commence studies no later than 31 May 2012 working with Professor Billie Giles-Corti and Dr Hannah Badland on studies of the built environment and health. Applicants should have a background in quantitative research, preferably in population health, geography, GIS or urban planning and/or an ability and willingness to develop skills in GIS. The successful applicant will work on research studies being conducted in Western Australia (RESIDE or Lifecourse) and/or Brisbane (the HABITAT study), with the potential to be involved in similar studies being planned in Melbourne. Topics that could be explored include the impact of housing and population density on health behaviours and physical and/or mental health; or the impact of residential relocation on physical activity or mental health outcomes.

This scholarship is valued at \$27,000 p.a. for three years. For further information, contact Professor Billie Giles-Corti, b.giles-corti@unimelb.edu.au.

MPhil Scholarship: Health Economics

Scholarship 4

Applications are invited for a Masters scholarship to commence studies as soon as possible, but no later than 31 May 2012, to be co-supervised by Professor Billie Giles-Corti and Professor Alan Shiell, Centre of Excellence in Intervention and Prevention Science. Applicants should have qualifications in economics, or a directly cognate discipline. The successful applicant will work on the Eco-RESIDE study which involves examining the economic utility of creating more walkable neighbourhoods. Eco-RESIDE is a sub-study of the internationally recognised RESIDE project, and the successful applicant will work alongside RESIDE researchers at the University of Western Australian, and Burden of Disease Epidemiologists at the University of Queensland. It may be possible for a suitably qualified and motivated applicant to upgrade this project to a PhD.

This scholarship is valued at \$25,000 p.a. for two years. For further information, contact Professor Billie Giles-Corti, b.giles-corti@unimelb.edu.au or Professor Alan Shiell, alanshiell@ceips.org.au.

How to apply:

Interested applicants should first make contact with the person nominated for each scholarship. Qualified applicants should then download and complete the RHD Application form from the University of Melbourne [Future Students graduate research application](#) website.

To ensure you are considered for all other available 2012 scholarships, in Section F of the application form, please ensure you check the boxes for APA, MRS and Faculty/Graduate School Scholarships, and any others for which you may be eligible.

Please submit your *application* to:

**Graduate Research Degree Admissions
The John Smyth Building, Swanston Street
The University of Melbourne
PARKVILLE VIC 3010**

Applicants must also submit the attached *notification slip* to:

**ABP Research Office
Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning
PARKVILLE VIC 3010**

Please submit your application and notification slip by no later than 5:00pm, Monday 31 October.



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Place, Health and Liveability Research Program**

**Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning and
The School of Population Health (McCaughey VicHealth Centre for Mental Health and
Community Wellbeing)**

Notification of Graduate Research Application

I have submitted my application for the PhD/MPhil to the University of Melbourne's Graduate Research Degree Admissions office and would like to be considered for the following scholarships (applicants can select more than one):

- Scholarship 1: PhD Place, Health and Wellbeing (Social Determinants of Health Index)
- Scholarship 2: PhD Place, Health and Wellbeing (Planning Policy Matrix)
- Scholarship 3: PhD (Built Environment and Health)
- Scholarship 4: MPhil (Health Economics)

First Name: _____

Family Name: _____

Previous University of Melbourne Student ID number (if applicable): _____

Contact email: _____

Date application submitted: _____