



Faculty of Medicine, The Department of
Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry 3DN

PhD Scholarship

Expression of Interest (EOI)
Autism CRC

PhD Scholarships: Adults Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN) <http://3dn.unsw.edu.au/> is offering one or more upcoming three-year full-time PhD positions to highly motivated students to work with Professor Julian Trollor on a longitudinal study of the participation, productivity, health and well-being of adults with autism spectrum disorders. The PhD is to be undertaken as part of a broad program of research under Program 3 of the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Autism CRC <http://www.autismcrc.com.au/> under the Australian Government CRC Program <http://www.crc.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

There is strong likelihood one full scholarship will be funded by the Autism CRC. These PhD scholarships will be provided under the guidelines and conditions of the Research Training Program (RTP) scheme for a period of 3 years, with a stipend rate of AUD \$26,682.00pa. Students who successfully attract an RTP can apply for a partial or top up scholarship to the value of AUD \$5,000.00pa.

To be eligible for these PhD scholarships, you must ideally start your PhD full time in 2017 and study in a field which aligns with Program 3 of the Autism CRC research program. These positions are dependent upon successful enrolment in the Faculty of Medicine.

The Autism CRC takes a "whole-of-life" approach to Autism focussing on diagnosis, education and adult life. The Autism CRC is the world's first national, cooperative research effort focussed on Autism. The Autism CRC brings together a unique mix of partnerships - government, university, research and not-for profit organisations, and world class researchers. The Autism CRC will undertake highly innovative research to directly improve the lifetime prospects of Australian individuals with ASD, provide much needed guidance, support and direction for their families, and enable medical practitioners, educators, therapists, support workers and employers to work effectively with people with ASD.

The PhD students will work on the Australian Longitudinal Study of Autistic Adults (ALSAA), which is part of the Autism CRC research program 3, Adulthood: Finding a place in society. This program aims to improve opportunities for people with ASD to successfully participate in higher education and employment, and identify best practice in physical and mental health management. Currently only 1% of all research into autism is focused on post school outcomes. The candidate will contribute to the



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project aims and the final topic of the PhD research will be determined by the candidate in collaboration with the research team.

The broad domains of the first wave of the ALSAA study include health, mental and emotional health, quality of life, functioning and activities of daily living, communication, employment and participation, service usage, support networks, special abilities and characteristics of autism. ALSAA includes a neurotypical control group, and longitudinal data should be available for analysis to PhD scholars in their candidature. There are many areas of interest the PhD scholars could explore, with the option to augment ALSAA data with sub-studies. PhD scholars could come from a range of health or allied health backgrounds.

The PhD students will be supervised by the project leader Prof Julian Trollor, Chair in Intellectual Disability Mental Health (IDMH) and Head, Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN). The PhD students will also be co-supervised by an Autism CRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

The PhD students will be based within the Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN), established within the School of Psychiatry, UNSW Medicine and located near the UNSW Kensington campus. 3DN supports the mental health needs of individuals with Intellectual Disability (ID) through the education and training of health professionals, and by conducting research with a particular focus on the neuropsychiatry of intellectual disability.

Selection Criteria

1. Quality of academic record (a Bachelor's degree with first or upper second class honours in a related field, an Australian medical degree, or a Masters degree with a research focus)
2. An interest in/knowledge of the Autism Spectrum disorders in adults
3. Experience of undertaking research (including running research projects, analysing data, and experience publishing in a peer reviewed journal or research publication)
4. Potential for completing a PhD
5. Good organisational skills and demonstrated capacity to meet milestones
6. Good communication and interpersonal skills
7. Commitment to working as part of a team
8. Residency requirement: You must be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or New Zealand citizen.

Expression of interest

Please contact Prof Julian Trollor Email: j.trollor@unsw.edu.au to discuss this opportunity prior to submitting a full application. Please attach your CV and a one-page summary demonstrating how you meet the selection criteria to the email listed above. We encourage potential applicants to submit an expression of interest as soon as possible.

Please visit the Graduate Research School website: <http://research.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate-research-scholarships> for more information about the application process for entry to a PhD.