

PHD SCHOLARSHIP – BEING ON COUNTRY OFF COUNTRY

School of Architecture & Built Environment, Faculty of Science,
Engineering and Built Environment

Applications are now open for 1 PhD scholarship to work with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation and their community, and 1 PhD scholarship to work with the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and their community, in partnership with Griffith University, Deakin University and LaTrobe University. The scholarships require being based in Brisbane with Griffith or in Geelong with Deakin, and are part of an Australian Research Council Linkage funded project entitled "*Being On Country Off Country*".

The scholarship at Deakin University is led by Prof. David Jones. It is expected that any successful applicant will commence at Deakin in the second half of 2016.

Research Topic

Being On Country Off Country

Aim of the Project

This project aims to understand contemporary Australian Aboriginal connections to '*Country*'. The concept of *Country* is integral to Australian Aboriginal meaning and culture, and *Country* and the individual are anthropologically inseparable and co-dependent. Being 'on *Country*' implies residency within a tract of landscape involving cultural origins and responsibilities, whereas being 'off *Country*' implies residency external to this home land. How, and to what degree, these on and off protocols operate has not previously been researched. The project aims to explore regional and urban residency relationships in relation to Aboriginal Corporation membership eligibility and to *Country* self-nurture and custodianship relationships. It is highly relevant to Indigenous communities worldwide as their people move from their '*Country*' to satisfy higher education and employment aspirations. The issues are central to improving Indigenous community engagement in planning.

Value and benefits

A stipend of \$26,288 per annum tax exempt for 3 years.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants, must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage, and possess a qualification(s) in planning, environmental design, landscape architecture, cultural heritage, anthropology, archaeology, geography, Indigenous studies or a cognate field.

- Applicants must meet Deakin's PhD entry requirements, be enrolling full-time and hold an Honours degree (First Class) or a Master's degree with a substantial research component in a

related field. Please refer to the [entry pathways](#) to higher degrees by research for further information.

- a bachelor's degree with first-class honours or second-class honours (Division A) or a master's degree, incorporating a significant research component, from a recognised institution; or
- a record of research, or a qualification granted by a professional or other body deemed by the university's Research Office, to be of a standard comparable to a bachelor's degree with second-class honours (Division A).
- Candidate need to commence their candidature in the second half of 2016.

The successful applicant will join a community of staff and other PhD students working on related topics. The scholarship is offered on a three-year full-time basis with support funding for conference and fieldwork travel.

How to apply

To apply at Deakin

- Please refer to the [Apply for a research degree](#) webpage for application information.
- You will need to select the scholarship '*Being On Country Off Country*' from the drop down menu when selecting this scholarship.
- In addition to submitting your cv and certified academic transcripts as part of your application, advising your *Country*, arranging for 2 academic referee reports, a Statement about what Aboriginal knowledge, cultural and research expertise, and cultural insights you can bring to strengthening this research project should be submitted.

For specific entry requirement detail and to make an application for the Griffith University-based scholarship, see: <https://degrees.griffith.edu.au/Program/6001/HowToApply/Domestic#can-i-apply>

Further information

Applicants are encouraged to contact [Professor David Jones](#) at (03) 5227 8763 for a Deakin-based application or [Professor Darryl Low Choy](#) at (07) 3735 4189 for a Griffith-based application before submitting an application. Applications can be made to either university by the due date as long as you state which university you prefer to be based at.