

Higher degree by research (PhD) scholarship opportunity in psychological aspects of polycystic ovary syndrome

We are seeking talented candidates who wish to apply for a full-time scholarship to pursue a PhD. You should ideally have a background in psychology and an interest in patient empowerment, emotional well-being and women's health. Your research will be part of an extensive range of new knowledge projects to be undertaken by the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) in the origins, outcomes and optimal management of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and you will work closely with several of the CRE research teams and partner organisations.

About the Centre for Research Excellence in the origins, outcomes and optimal management of PCOS

PCOS is a common, under-recognised and increasingly prevalent condition with major and sometimes devastating health impacts. It affects one in five young Australian women and one in four Indigenous women. This multisystem condition has reproductive, metabolic and emotional implications including obesity, infertility (primary cause of female infertility), pregnancy complications (miscarriage, fetal anomalies), diabetes (fourfold increase and younger onset), increased cardiovascular risk factors, psychological disturbance and poor quality of life.

The CRE in the origins, outcomes and optimal management of PCOS is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council for five years (2015 – 2020) to address key research priorities, support translation, build capacity and foster collaboration. The CRE will:

- Generate new knowledge to:
 - Improve PCOS diagnosis
 - Advance fundamental understandings of biological origins, aetiology and pathology of PCOS
 - Define the natural history of PCOS
 - Improve fertility treatments
 - Establish effective lifestyle and pharmaceutical interventions
- Ensure effective transfer of research into health policy and practice including expansion and update of the Evidence-based guidelines for the assessment and management of polycystic ovary syndrome
- Develop the health and medical research workforce
- Facilitate national and international collaborations with
 - Consumers
 - Health Professionals
 - Researchers

About this PhD opportunity

The supervisors have a keen interest in the emotional well-being of women with PCOS and will supervise a project in which a questionnaire is developed to assess PCOS-related distress. The PhD candidate will undertake literature review, qualitative interviews with women with PCOS to generate a potential questionnaire item pool, debrief the items with women with PCOS and then undertake a large-scale psychometric validation study. Within this research program, there is ample opportunity for the candidate to conduct independent research under the supervision of an expert research team.

About the PhD supervisors

Professor Helena Teede

<http://www.monash.edu.au/research/people/profiles/profile.html?sid=1940&pid=3097>

Professor Jane Speight

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/profiles/jane-speight>

Dr Lisa Moran

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/directory/lisa.moran>

University fees

Australian citizens and permanent residents will be exempt from additional Monash University fees. International students will be required to provide evidence of how they will manage their university fee requirements for the duration of their candidature.

Qualifications and financial Support

Students with an Honours or Masters degree with H1 equivalent (including psychology graduates) are encouraged to apply. An initial, one year scholarship (equivalent to Australian Postgraduate Association stipend) for 2016 is guaranteed, with opportunities to apply for further scholarships in subsequent years. Preparation of scholarship applications will be supported and successful applicants will be eligible to apply for additional local top-up scholarship funds.

How to apply

Email your CV, a cover letter and a copy of your academic transcript to linda.downes@monash.edu by Sunday 12th July 2015.