

PHD Scholarships in Melbourne — Qualitative research on addiction

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified candidates for two PhD scholarships in qualitative research on addiction. The scholarships will be based in NDRI's Social Studies of Addiction Concepts research program.

The Program

Concepts of 'addiction' vary across time and place. Focusing on the field of alcohol and other drug (AOD) use, this program of research takes addiction as its central object of study, mapping and monitoring changes in addiction concepts and language in Australia and around the world. Key questions the research program explores include:

- How is addiction made in debates about new drugs and new issues such as the rise of online drug markets or 'the new recovery'?
- How do changes in terminology affect the way AOD policy is designed and implemented?
- How is addiction depicted in popular culture and how does this relate to policy and service provision?
- How do medical and public health definitions of addiction relate to legal responses to drug use?
- How do individuals experience diagnoses of addiction? How do these experiences inform other aspects of their lives?

Drawing on a range of social scientific research methods such as in-depth interviewing, policy analysis, cultural studies, ethnographic observation and international comparative collaborative techniques, this program of research directly informs policy, and helps develop clearer models and more productive approaches for improving AOD-related health and social outcomes in Australia.

The Scholarship

The scholarships carry an annual tax-free stipend of \$29,549 a year each for three years. The scholarships commence mid-2013 and are based at NDRI's Melbourne office, located at Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre in Fitzroy.

The Institute

NDRI is a centre for excellence in AOD research and is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund. It is one of the largest centres of alcohol and other drug research expertise in Australia, employing about 30 research staff in Perth and Melbourne across a range of disciplines, including anthropology, epidemiology, psychology, public health and sociology. It has a strong national and international profile, and is involved in collaborative research in Australia and overseas.

The Application

The successful applicant will:

- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or Australian permanent resident;
- hold or expect to obtain First Class Honours or equivalent results in sociology, cultural studies, anthropology or a related discipline; and
- be able to undertake theoretically informed, empirically-grounded qualitative research.

Experience in qualitative research in a relevant field will be highly regarded.

Expressions of interest, comprising a current CV (including contact details for two academic referees) and a 1-2 page statement of interest, should be emailed to suzanne.fraser@curtin.edu.au by April 22, 2013.

For more information, visit ndri.curtin.edu.au/students/phd.cfm.