

Early Start PhD scholarships

The University of Wollongong is a research-intensive university with a vision of being a leader in ideas and solutions, a community of campuses and partners where discovery, learning and technology connect to transform people and the world we live in. This vision is consistent with current research confirming the importance of the early years of children's lives for their future achievements in education, health and life outcomes. The Early Start Project is closely aligned with this vision.

The Early Start Project, a \$44 million venture (<http://earlystart.uow.edu.au/index.html>), provides opportunities for local, national and international collaboration aimed at enhancing social capital and addressing disadvantage in our most vulnerable communities. Scheduled to open in early 2015, Early Start will be a strategic interdisciplinary teaching, research and community initiative that will enable a new generation of graduates to work with young children, their families and communities. Using pedagogies and technologies that shape learning for the 21st Century, Early Start will offer world class teaching and research facilities as well as Australia's first Children's Discovery Centre. It will be connected to 38 Early Start Engagement Centres located across regional, rural and remote areas of NSW.

Several PhD scholarships are currently being offered within Early Start. These scholarships are available in any of the following research areas: cognitive development and learning, healthy lifestyles, social transformation, and digital learning and engagement. The scholarships are designed to enable recipients to commence research in partnership with the Engagement Centres in late 2013 or early 2014, if their project aligns with these Centres.

Specific projects will be negotiated between the successful applicants and their supervisors in one of the areas outlined above. Successful applicants will also be provided with opportunities to collaborate with one another to enrich their own studies, and to contribute to specific discipline areas and the Early Start enterprise.

Applicants are expected to commit to full-time research for the 3 years of this project and have the capacity to be based at the University of Wollongong's main campus. If their project aligns with the Engagement Centres applicants are expected to be able to commit to travelling as part of their scholarship (travel costs will be covered as part of the scholarship).

Eligibility

Open to Australian and International applicants who meet UOW PhD entry requirements (Hons I or Masters) in the following fields: education, health, psychology, child development, sociology, information technology, social marketing, medicine, social work and sustainable communities.

Stipend

- Scholarship stipend is \$24,653 per annum for 3 years
- An additional allowance of up to \$20,000 per scholarship is available to cover project-related costs such as travel

Dates

- Closing date: 12 July 2013
- Commencement date: Between 1 September 2013 and 1 February 2014

Inquiries

Please contact the following people depending on your area of interest:

- **Cognitive Development and Learning:** Professor Paul Chandler (email: chandler@uow.edu.au) or Professor Fred Paas (email: Paas@fsw.eur.nl)
- **Healthy Lifestyles:** Professor Anthony D Okely (email: tokely@uow.edu.au)
- **Digital Learning and Engagement:** Associate Professor Sue Bennett (email: sbennett@uow.edu.au)
- **Social Transformation:** Professor Sandra Jones (email: sandraj@uow.edu.au)

How to apply

- All potential candidates should send their CVs (including academic transcript) and a one-page summary of their research background and highlights to Tanya Nikolic at tnikolic@uow.edu.au by the 12th July 2013.