

PhD Scholarship – Sleep disorder phenotyping

Flinders University has four PhD positions available to support the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Alertness, Safety and Productivity (<http://alertnesscrc.com/>). The CRC aims broadly to improve alertness and productivity for all Australians. These PhD positions will specifically provide support for the Sleep Disorders Phenotyping Platform, which will examine ways of improving diagnosis and treatment for insomnia and obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).

This project will develop, test and refine simple, clinically deployable sleep disorder phenotyping toolkits, firstly to establish individual patient trait vulnerability to sleepiness/alertness failure, and secondly to establish deeper disorder specific phenotyping methods for identifying underlying causal mechanisms of insomnia and OSA. The aims of the Sleep Disorder Phenotyping project are:

- To develop, test and validate new measures and tools, suitable for deployment and use in routine clinical practice, for phenotyping insomnia and OSA, including their sensitivity to daytime alertness, safety and productivity.
- To develop and test the efficacy of new therapy interventions tailored to individual insomnia and OSA patients based on their phenotype.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants need to meet the Flinders University PhD entry requirements. Applicants will need to be enrolled full-time and hold an Honours degree (First Class) or a Master's degree in a related field with a substantial research component (or equivalent). More information about eligibility for PhD can be found at <http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/rules/postgrad/phd.cfm>
- Australian citizens or permanent residents, New Zealand citizens or international applicants are welcome to apply. However, tuition fees may apply for international applicants.
- Research experience in sleep medicine, psychology, biomedical science, engineering or nursing backgrounds will be an advantage.

Application Guide

Applications for these positions open from 27th September. Further information can be obtained from Dr Andrew Vakulin, NHMRC Post-Doctoral Fellow, Flinders University, Email: andrew.vakulin@flinders.edu.au, Phone: (08) 8275 2847 or A/Prof Peter Catchside, ARC Future Fellow, Flinders University, Email: peter.catchside@flinders.edu.au, Phone: (08) 8275 1309. Applications should be sent direct to Dr Andrew Vakulin at the above address and should include a curriculum vitae, and the names and contact details of two referees.

Closing Date: Open until projects are filled.

Scholarship value:

- A stipend of \$25,392 per annum tax exempt and may be renewed for up to three years subject to satisfactory progress.
- Travel grants may be available for relevant conference attendance.

Location

- Depending on the project applicants will be located at Flinders University, the Adelaide Institute for Sleep Health (<http://www.adelaidesleephealth.org.au/>) or Flinders Medical Centre.