



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Melbourne Neuroscience Institute Strategic Research Training Program (RTP)

PhD Scholarships:

Interdisciplinary PhD Scholarships in Neuroscience and Related Disciplines - Commencing 2018

(3 awards available)

Up to three Strategic Research Training Program (RTP) scholarships are available to eligible students to support cross-disciplinary graduate research in the neurosciences and related disciplines. The Melbourne Neuroscience Institute (MNI) is seeking Expressions of Interest from eligible candidates for these scholarships, which will be available for commencement in 2018.

Recipients of this scholarship will receive a support package additional to the Australian Government Research Training Program of \$5,000 per annum from the MNI for 3 years, comprised of \$3,000 per annum stipend and \$2,000 per annum to be held by the supervising laboratory to be used for direct research costs for the student's research project.

About MNI

The MNI is one of five University of Melbourne Interdisciplinary Research Institutes (MIRI's) that bring together researchers from across the University to tackle society's complex problems in innovative ways. These Institutes work with industry, government and not-for profit organisations in Australia and overseas to challenge current thinking and offer new solutions that change our world.

The MNI supports focused interdisciplinary research across fields as broad as Medicine, Mental Health, Engineering, Optometry and Vision Sciences, Ophthalmology, Law, Economics and Social Sciences. Basic and clinically focused neuroscience research is undertaken in multiple departments of the University of Melbourne, with an overarching strategic focus provided by the University's Melbourne Neuroscience Institute.





Research areas for Interdisciplinary PhD projects include:

- 1. Translational and clinical neuroscience/psychiatry:** Focus on early detection, prevention and pathogenesis. Key areas of research include:
 - Epilepsy
 - Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia
 - Stroke
 - Multiple Sclerosis
 - Brain tumours
 - Psychosis (including youth mental health)
 - Posttraumatic mental health
 - HIV and cognitive impairment

- 2. Sensory and Integrative Neurosciences/biomedical engineering:**
 - Hearing (including cochlear implant oriented research)
 - Vision
 - Autonomic and sensory neuroscience
 - Homeostasis

- 3. Molecular and cellular neuroscience - encompassing both fundamental research and its application to neurological disease:**
 - Neural stem cells and neuro/gliogenesis
 - Neural connectivity in development and regeneration
 - Neural cell migration
 - Neurophysiology and neuropharmacology
 - Neural plasticity

- 4. Psychological sciences:**
 - Cognitive psychology of attention, visual cognition, decision making, and executive functions
 - Social psychology of intergroup, cultural, and social network processes
 - Clinical and health psychology and psychotic and personality disorders.

- 5. Other research areas:**
 - Neurogenetics/Pharmacogenomics/Precision Medicine
 - Prediction of neurodegenerative disease
 - Psychological research on broader societal issues with policy implications
 - Traumatic Brain Injury



ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the scholarship, the recipients must satisfy the following general criteria:

- Be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or Australian permanent resident **who meets the University of Melbourne's requirements** for Research Higher Degree (RHD) candidature and the award of an Australian Government Research Training program scholarship.
- Be **outstanding** graduates who have demonstrated excellence in neuroscience, science, biomedical science, chemistry or other related disciplines.
- Have obtained overall marks in the highest grade band (*e.g.* H1 or HD) in a relevant Honours or Masters degree (**H1 – 80 to 100%**).
- Have not completed a PhD or held a graduate research scholarship previously.
- Commence or have commenced their PhD in the calendar year of the offer (2018). If the recipient has commenced their PhD, they must have at least 12 months of their 3 years of candidature remaining at January 2018. In the case of a scholarship recipient not commencing their candidature prior to June 2018, the scholarship shall be withdrawn and returned to Chancellery (Research) for re-allocation.
- **Your PhD project must utilize a multidisciplinary approach as evidenced (in most cases) by the formal involvement of two PhD supervisors.**

The terms and conditions related to the scholarship can be found on the [Melbourne Scholarships website](#).

OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

The application process is described below to assist you; however, it **does not replace advice provided by your Department, supervisor or prospective supervisor, the RHD Admissions Office or the Melbourne Scholarships office.**

If you have already commenced your PhD by research and hold an Australian Government Research Training Program scholarship and you wish to apply for an MNI Strategic RTP scholarship, please do so directly online via the **Student Portal: my.unimelb.edu.au**

1. IDENTIFY PROJECT AND SUPERVISOR

Prospective RTP scholarship applicants should discuss potential projects with research supervisors at the University of Melbourne across multidisciplinary areas in the Neurosciences and related disciplines. You may identify potential supervisors in two ways:

- Through the [Faculty or Graduate School](#) that best meets your research interest
- Through the '[Find an expert](#)' website (not all researchers listed are available for supervision)

2. APPLY FOR AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM (RTP) SCHOLARSHIP

Prospective applicants for an RTP are required to submit a completed University of Melbourne Graduate Research application (online). Information on applying for a Graduate Research Degree is described here: <http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/applications/research>.

Online applications can be accessed here:

<http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/applications/online-application-info>.

Please ensure that you have selected:



- a) 'Admission to Graduate Research Degree Candidature **and** Scholarship'
- b) The appropriate Faculty (*e.g.*) Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Engineering, Science, *etc.* Also indicate the appropriate Department or School within that Faculty.
- c) Australian Government Research Training Program awards
- d) MNI Strategic RTP Scholarships
- e) Any other scholarships for which you wish to be considered.

3. SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR AN MNI RTP SCHOLARSHIP

Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute between **18 December 2017** and **9 February 2018**. Early submissions of EOI are most welcome.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please keep in mind that your submission is an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST only. If you have not finalised a PhD project or PhD supervisor(s), please indicate your **proposed/most likely PhD project title and supervisor(s)** in your EOI form. We will contact you and/or liaise with the RHD Admissions Office to confirm your details.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

All Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute using the EOI Form.

The completed form together with your CV, certified copies of academic transcripts and the contact details of two academic referees is to be emailed as a **single PDF file** with filename format: **{Applicant's SURNAME}-MNI RTP 2018** to: research-mni@unimelb.edu.au no later than **5.00pm on Friday 9 February 2018**. For enquiries, please contact Vikki Marshall, MNI Operations Manager via the above email address or by phone on (03) 834 48692.

ASSESSMENT OF MNI RTP SCHOLARSHIP EOI SUBMISSIONS

An assessment panel of experts in the neurosciences from the UoM shall meet in mid-February 2018 to generate a preliminary list of successful applicants based on:

- Scholarly merit
- The degree of interdisciplinarity of the proposed PhD project in the Neurosciences
- Consideration of your stated "Career Objectives and Vision for the next 5 years."

Informal offers of an MNI RTP Scholarship to the top 3 ranking students. In the case of first-round RTP scholarship offers being declined for any reason (*e.g.*) another scholarship has been awarded, then the next highest ranked student shall be offered the scholarship.

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

Applicants shall be notified of outcome up to four (4) weeks after the EOI deadline. Formal notice of outcome shall be sent to you via email from the Melbourne Scholarships Office and may be temporally aligned with offer of a PhD from the RHD Office.



IMPORTANT - NEW SCHOLARSHIP NAME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS REQUIRED

Please note that the contribution of the Australian Commonwealth Government must be acknowledged when the student, supervisor or any other party, publishes or produces material such as books, articles, newsletters or other literary or artistic works which relate to the research project for which the scholarship was awarded. The acknowledgement must include the mention of the support through an “**Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship**”.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A RTP SCHOLARSHIP?

The RTP Scholarship funds will be allocated as follows:

- **\$3,000 per annum stipend** (paid fortnightly to student’s bank account per bank details provided). Please ensure that your bank details are up to date using the student portal **my.unimelb.edu.au**. MNI will advise the Melbourne Scholarship Office of successful awardees, however ongoing stipend payments are administered via the Melbourne Scholarships Office.
- **\$2,000 per annum** to be held by the supervising laboratory and to be used for **direct research costs** for the student’s project and/or attendance at conferences (this payment is administered by MNI and paid once per year for 3 years).

INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Item	Link
Melbourne Neuroscience Institute	http://www.neuroscience.unimelb.edu.au/
General information on undertaking a Research Higher Degree (RHD) at the University of Melbourne:	http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/info/research
For Faculty-specific information, refer to:	http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/info/research#contacts
RHD admissions	GR-admissions@unimelb.edu.au
Scholarships (Strategic RTP) & administration of the \$3,000 RTP stipend	http://services.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships
For queries regarding submission of an EOI for a MNI RTP SCHOLARSHIP, or the \$2,000 “Direct Research Costs” payment to host laboratory.	research-mni@unimelb.edu.au vikki.marshall@unimelb.edu.au ¹ PH: (03) 834 48692