

PhD opportunities in behavioural / psychological aspects of diabetes

The Australian Centre for Behavioural Research in Diabetes ([ACBRD](http://acbrd.org.au)) is inviting expressions of interest from potential students who would be competitive applicants for a 3-year [NHMRC PhD scholarship](#).

In addition to the usual tax-free NHMRC PhD scholarship stipend, Diabetes Australia has announced that it will offer a further \$20,000 per year, to co-fund up to three [NHMRC / Diabetes Australia Postgraduate Scholarships](#) for successful applicants with a commitment to a career in diabetes research.

The ACBRD conducts research into the behavioural, psychological and social aspects of living with diabetes, and has a number of key projects in development that would be suitable for PhD research:

- a multi-centre randomised controlled trial (RCT) of the 'artificial pancreas' in adults with type 1 diabetes
- a RCT of an online psycho-educational program for prevention of severe hypoglycaemia in adults with type 1 or type 2 diabetes
- a RCT of continuous glucose monitoring in adults with type 2 diabetes in primary care
- a RCT of an online intervention to reduce diabetes-specific distress in adults with diabetes
- investigation of the impact of diabetes on quality of life in adults with diabetes
- development and evaluation of evidence-based diabetes-related health communications
- investigation of the relationship between emotional well-being and glucose variability in people with diabetes, using experience sampling methodology
- investigation of the impact of hypoglycaemia on quality of life in adults with type 2 diabetes

Applicants are also welcome to suggest their own topics aligned to the Centre's interests. For most opportunities, both quantitative and qualitative research methods will be relevant, and choice may be dependent on the applicant's interests and expertise as well as the needs of the projects.

Who are we looking for?

The NHMRC / Diabetes Australia Postgraduate scholarships will be highly competitive. Suitable applicants will typically have First Class Honours or a Research Masters degree. You will need to have a passion for research and enjoy working among a dynamic, enthusiastic and collaborative team. Ideally, you will also have a relevant background (e.g. psychology, social sciences, health sciences), as well as excellent communication and project management skills.

Expressions of interest invited by 15 May

Ultimately, applications will need to be made through the NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarships Scheme, due to the NHMRC by 29th June 2016 (details below) but time will be needed to develop a high-quality application.

Interested applicants are invited to email Prof Jane Speight (jspeight@acbrd.org.au) by 15th May 2016, attaching their CV, undergraduate transcript, and a 500-word summary indicating why they are a suitable candidate and the area(s) of research that would be of interest.

We encourage applications to consider the research topics outlined above but we will consider all proposals. Further details about the ACBRD and the scholarship schemes are available from the hyperlinks above. Short-listed candidates will be invited to an informal interview in due course.

About the ACBRD

The ACBRD has a strong national and international reputation, conducting innovative research in a diverse range of areas. The ACBRD was established in 2010 as a partnership for better health between Diabetes Victoria and Deakin University; and the initial 5-year collaboration was renewed in 2015 for a further 5 years. This positioning of the ACBRD as a centre between the university and the peak consumer body supporting, empowering and campaigning for people with diabetes in Victoria means that our PhD candidates focus on real-world problems; they have the opportunity to make a difference to the lives of people with diabetes and are, ultimately, very employable once their PhD concludes. Furthermore, gaining a PhD from the School of Psychology at Deakin University makes the person eligible for recognition as a 'health psychologist' by the Australian Psychological Society. The ACBRD is a vibrant and dynamic team of research-intensive staff and PhD candidates, who enjoy supporting and learning from each other. PhD candidates are supported by an experienced supervisory team.

Partners for better health