

Faculty of Medicine and Health, The Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN)

PhD Scholarships in Health Data Science- Health and Wellbeing of People with Intellectual or Developmental Disability: Expressions of Interest Invited

Opportunities for PhD Projects: The successful candidates will have exemplary track records and will work with 3DN academic staff to propose an inclusive, highly translational and innovative body of work in areas aligned with 3DN's research programs. Current opportunities include the use of linked population health datasets to examine mental health care, interactions between mental health and physical health outcomes, medicines use and associated benefits and harms in people with intellectual disability, including in specific populations such as people with Down syndrome, those with multiple or complex needs, and older people with intellectual disability. Potential candidates who wish to combine data linkage and other quantitative and qualitative research methods would also be considered.

Background: People with intellectual or developmental disability experience high rates of mental and physical health conditions. They are disproportionately represented in mental health services and particularly in the costs of mental health service delivery. They have higher rates of morbidity and avoidable deaths, alongside poor access to health services and preventative healthcare. The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability has found people with cognitive disability "continue to be subject to systematic neglect in our health system".

Information about 3DN's activities: We work to improve health policy, practice and support for people with intellectual or developmental disability. We conduct research with high translational benefit to the disability and health sectors. 3DN builds capacity through teaching, training, health promotion, development of educational resources and the conduct of other professional activities.

The department leads numerous initiatives that improve access to and capability of Australian healthcare and disability support providers to meet the needs of people with intellectual disability. Of particular interest are projects including the MySigns app to facilitate mental health assessment for people with intellectual disability, the Intellectual Disability Mental Health Service Pathways Tool, as well as specialist intellectual disability health service evaluations. Several projects have shown valuable preliminary outcomes, with the need to evaluate and scale up to national initiatives.

3DN has a multi-agency linked dataset comprising a NSW population-capture of people with intellectual disability and population-based age- and sex-matched controls. Data is available from relevant NSW and Commonwealth health and human services, on 574,630 individuals (116,999 with intellectual disability), including for emergency and inpatient hospital visits, Medicare Benefits Schedule items, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme items, National Death Index and cause of death,

Australian Immunisation Registry and National Bowel Cancer Screening, various disability, education, and mental health datasets, cancer and cancer screening, and notifiable conditions.

Eligibility: Students with honours, masters or equivalent degrees in health (public health, medicine, nursing, allied health), computer science, biostatistics or related disciplines would be well suited. Applicants may be Australian citizens, permanent residents or international. Applicants must meet the UNSW PhD entry requirements and be able to enrol as a full-time domestic PhD scholar.

Value: \$30,000 per annum for 3 years for full scholarship; if applicant attracts their own scholarship (eg RTP) a top-up of scholarship of \$5,000 per annum for 3 years.

More information: Various projects conducted at 3DN are funded by the Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). More information about specific projects can be found here: <https://www.3dn.unsw.edu.au/projects-publications/projects>

How to apply: To commence the EOI process please contact the 3DN Student Coordinators Dr Rachael Cvejic (r.cvejic@unsw.edu.au) and Dr Janelle Weise (j.weise@unsw.edu.au) with:

- i) a one page EOI outlining your relevant experience, research interests, and how these align with our Department
- ii) your CV
- iii) your academic transcripts.

Status: Applications open

