



National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health

PhD Scholarship Opportunities

Are you passionate about improving health outcomes for people with intellectual disability?

Are you looking to develop research skills and join a team passionate about co-design in research?

Exciting opportunities exist for PhD scholarships at the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health. Scholarships are available at UNSW, Centre for Disability Studies (The University of Sydney), Mater Intellectual Disability and Autism Service and Mater Misericordiae (University of Queensland), Telethon Kids Institute (in collaboration with Curtin University, Perth), and University of Melbourne.

Information about the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health's activities

The National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health (the Centre) is a new major initiative supported by the Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care, which commenced in 2023. The Centre is led by UNSW Sydney (Medicine and Health) together with a consortium comprising The New South Wales Council for Intellectual Disability, Down Syndrome Australia, Queenslanders with Disability Network, First Peoples Disability Network (Australia), Centre for Disability Studies, Mater Intellectual Disability and Autism Service and Mater Misericordiae, University of Melbourne, and Telethon Kids Institute. A further 20 health and disability sector partners and 36 collaborating organisations are also involved. The Centre's purpose is to improve the health of people with intellectual disability. The National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health will be based at UNSW Medicine and Health, UNSW Sydney.

Establishing the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health is a vital step in improving the health of people with intellectual disability. The Centre brings together experts, resources, and research on intellectual disability healthcare.

Opportunities for PhD projects

The successful candidates will have an exemplary track record and will work with National Centre academic staff to propose inclusive, highly translational and innovative bodies of work in the area of intellectual disability health. Experience

using quantitative or qualitative research methods and with co-design would be highly regarded.

Research domains

We welcome interest in a broad range of topic areas related to improved health and wellbeing of people with intellectual disability. Some of our priority areas include:

1. Innovation in health care: including models of care and health services, meeting specific or complex care needs, intersectional disadvantage, preventive health, co-design in health care, and health service evaluation.
2. Health care needs of specific groups such as First Nations people with intellectual disability, CALD or rural communities.
3. Health care policy, systems, and performance.
4. Evaluation including the Centre's evaluation and evaluation of health care initiatives.
5. Workforce, education, and capacity building.
6. Health resources design and evaluation.
7. Cultural safety, inclusion, and advocacy, eg culturally appropriate translation of preventive health advice for Aboriginal children with intellectual disability.
8. Research methods, including data indicators and methods.
9. Health outcomes and their determinants, including use of linked administrative data.
10. Modelling health service prototypes and their potential outcomes using linked administrative data.

Scholarship eligibility

Please review the following pages for full eligibility requirements at each of the partner universities:

- UNSW – [HDR application process | UNSW Sydney](#). Note that [tuition fees](#) apply to international candidates; [tuition fee scholarships](#) may also be available.
- Sydney University – [How to apply for postgraduate research courses - The University of Sydney](#).
- University of Queensland – [Doctor of Philosophy - Study - The University of Queensland \(uq.edu.au\)](#).
- University of Melbourne – [How to apply - graduate research study \(unimelb.edu.au\)](#).
- Curtin University - <https://research.curtin.edu.au/higher-degree-by-research/>.

Students with honours, masters or equivalent degrees in medicine, allied health, or related disciplines would be well suited. Aboriginal or Torres Strait applicants are encouraged to apply. Applicants must meet the PhD entry requirements at the university of their choice, including citizenship/residency or visa requirements.

Value

\$40,000 per annum (tax free) for 3 years.

Training and development opportunities will be available as offered by host institutions.

How to apply

To commence the expression of interest process please contact the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health Coordinator at your preferred host institution:

- Professor Julian Trollor (UNSW) j.trollor@unsw.edu.au
- Associate Professor Mary-Ann O'Donovan (Centre for Disability Studies) mary-ann.odonovan@sydney.edu.au
- Dr Katie Brooker (Mater Intellectual Disability and Autism Service and Mater Misericordiae) k.brooker1@uq.edu.au
- Professor Anne Kavanagh (University of Melbourne) a.kavanagh@unimelb.edu.au
- Associate Professor Jenny Downs (Telethon Kids Institute) Jenny.Downs@telethonkids.org.au (note that enrolment would be at Curtin University)

After discussion of potential projects that interest you with the contact person listed above, you will need to include:

1. PhD Scholarship Expression of Interest Form
2. Short proposal indicating your research area of interest (your proposed topic must align with one of the National Centre's research domains)
3. Current CV
4. Academic transcripts

Expressions of interest must be submitted with all of the above to be considered. Scholarships will be awarded following a review by a panel of National Centre Consortium members, including, but not limited to the above Coordinators.