



Applications open for 1 PhD Scholarship for Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander applicants

Applications are now open for 1 PhD scholarship to work with Deakin University + the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and their community, in partnership Griffith and LaTrobe universities, and with the Quandamooka Yoolooburabee Aboriginal Corporation and their community to a lesser extent. The scholarship requires being based in Geelong with Deakin, and is part of an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage funded project entitled "Being On *Country* Off *Country*" (LP150100379).

This project aims to understand contemporary Australian Aboriginal connections to '*Country*'. The concept of *Country* is integral to Australian Aboriginal meaning and culture, and *Country* and the individual are anthropologically inseparable and co-dependent. Being 'on *Country*' implies residency within a tract of landscape involving cultural origins and responsibilities, whereas being 'off *Country*' implies residency external to this home land. How, and to what degree, these on and off protocols operate has not previously been researched. The project aims to explore regional and urban residency relationships in relation to Aboriginal Corporation membership eligibility and to *Country* self-nurture and custodianship relationships. It is highly relevant to Indigenous communities worldwide as their people move from their '*Country*' to satisfy higher education and employment aspirations. The issues are central to improving Indigenous community engagement in planning

Applicants, must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage, and possess a qualification(s) in planning, environmental design, landscape architecture, cultural heritage, anthropology, archaeology, geography, Indigenous studies or a cognate field.

An applicant for admission as a PhD candidate shall hold:

- a bachelor's degree with first-class honours or second-class honours (Division A) or a master's degree, incorporating a significant research component, from a recognised institution; or
- a record of research, or a qualification granted by a professional or other body deemed by the University's Research Office, to be of a standard comparable to a bachelor's degree with second-class honours (Division A).

The successful applicant will join a community of staff and other PhD students working on related topics. The scholarship is offered on a three-year full-time basis with support funding for conference and fieldwork travel. The annual scholarship stipend will be \$26,288 tax free. Conditions of the scholarship will be similar to the Australian Postgraduate Award scholarship. It is expected that any successful applicant will commence at Deakin in the second half of 2016.

In addition to submitting your cv and certified academic transcripts as part of your application, advising your *Country*, arranging for 2 academic referee reports, a Statement about what Aboriginal knowledge, cultural and research expertise, and cultural insights you can bring to strengthening this research project should be submitted.

For specific entry requirement detail and to make an application for Deakin, see:

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/research-degrees-doctoral-and-masters/entry-pathways>

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/apply/apply-for-a-research-degree>

Applicants are required to address the ARC Linkage "Being On *Country* Off *Country*" Position Description at <http://www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/scholarships-and-awards/research-degree-scholarships> for Deakin.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Professor David Jones at (03) 5227 8763 david.jones@deakin.edu.au for a Deakin-based application, before submitting an application.

Application Closing Date: to be advised.