



Bush Medicine PhD Scholarship

Chemical and pharmacological investigation of traditional bush medicines

NICM Health Research Institute is recognised globally for its world class research and innovations in complementary and integrative medicine. An opportunity exists to join our Bush Medicine Research Program, to undertake a laboratory-based project investigating the chemical and pharmacological basis of Aboriginal traditional plant medicines and contribute towards the growing body of knowledge in this area.

A Postgraduate Research [Scholarship](#) is available for a highly motivated PhD candidate who is technically skilled with a strong organic chemistry background. The successful candidate will work with a diverse group of researchers including, chemists, pharmacologists and botanists. Background knowledge of inflammation including key biochemical processes and the role these play in initiation and progression of chronic disorders including Alzheimer's disease is desirable.

This project will unravel the biomolecular mechanisms and identify the chemical constituents that can explain the therapeutic effects of traditional plant medicines, while seeking to translate these technologies into novel, efficacious medicines.

What does the scholarship provide?

- Domestic students will receive a tax-free stipend of \$30,000 per annum to support living costs, supported by a Research Training Program (RTP) Fee Offset.
- International students will receive a tax-free stipend of \$30,000 per annum to support living costs. Those with a strong track record will be eligible for a tuition fee waiver.
- International students are eligible for Overseas Student Health Cover.
- Support for conference attendance, fieldwork and consumable costs as approved by Institute.
- Unsuccessful candidates will also be considered for other NICM Scholarships becoming available during 2018.

Eligibility criteria

We welcome applicants from a range of backgrounds, and strongly encourage applications from people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. In particular, the project is suitable for candidates with strong interests in organic chemistry, pharmacology/pharmaceutical science and natural products.

The successful applicant should:

- hold qualifications and experience equal to one of the following (i) an Australian First Class Bachelor (Honours) degree, (ii) coursework Masters with at least 25% research component, (iii) Research Masters degree, or (iv) equivalent overseas qualifications.
- demonstrate strong academic performance in subjects relevant to chemistry.
- have an understanding of inflammation and its role in disease initiation and progression.
- be willing to learn techniques applicable to molecular biology.
- be enthusiastic and highly motivated to undertake further study at an advanced level.

International applicants must hold a current Visa and also meet [English language proficiency](#).

How to apply

1. Contact Professor Gerald Muench (g.muench@westernsydney.edu.au) to discuss your eligibility, the project requirements and your intention to apply.
2. Complete the [scholarship application form \(PDF, 222.11 KB\)](#).
3. Compile your CV, contact information for two referees, academic transcript, list of research outputs (e.g. publications) and a one-page proposal stating how your research interests align with the project aims
4. Ensure all documentation is certified according to [Western Sydney University requirements](#).
5. All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted directly to the Graduate Research School as follows:
 - Submit to grsapplications@westernsydney.edu.au
 - All attached documents must be submitted as PDF.
 - In the body of your email, include your full name, your student ID (if you are a current or previous Western Sydney University student) and the full title of the scholarship.

Incomplete applications or applications that do not conform to the above requirements will not be considered.

Please contact the Graduate Research School via email at grs.scholarships@westernsydney.edu.au for more information.

Applications close

Applications will be accepted until the scholarship is awarded.