

PhD scholarship in Neuroimaging in Mood Disorders

Centre for Youth Mental Health, University of Melbourne
Orygen, the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health

The project

A full-time postgraduate scholarship is available for a suitably qualified candidate to undertake research into neurobiological mechanisms underlying youth depression at Orygen, the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health. The successful applicant will be required to enrol in a full-time PhD with the Centre for Youth Mental Health, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences, University of Melbourne. Please refer to <http://mdhs-study.unimelb.edu.au/degrees/doctor-of-philosophy/entry-requirements#entry-requirements> for further information on the entry requirements to a UoM research higher degree. This PhD project is supported by the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Optimising Early Interventions for Young People with Emerging Mood Disorders (Optymise); <http://www.optymise.org.au>. Research will be conducted at Orygen under the supervision of Dr. Lianne Schmaal, Dr. Chris Davey and Dr. Ben Harrison.

The overall aims of the PhD project are to establish the neurobiological correlates underlying variation in disease profile and disease course of mood disorders in young people. The PhD student will work with large-scale datasets from the ENIGMA Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) consortium (<http://enigma.ini.usc.edu/ongoing/enigma-mdd-working-group/>) and local datasets acquired at the Optymise collaborating institutes (Orygen, Brain and Mind Centre). The PhD student will support ongoing ENIGMA MDD work, assist in new (neuroimaging) data collection, apply advanced computational and statistical methods, write scientific papers on the above topics, and incorporate the research into a PhD thesis.

Eligibility

We are looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic student with a strong interest in psychopathology who has the following background and experience:

- Completed tertiary studies that are at least equivalent to a 4-year honours degree at an Australian university with a minimum result of first class honours in the field of psychology, neuroscience, biomedical sciences, computer science, physics, biomedical engineering, or related discipline;
- Some experience with neuroimage analysis is desirable;
- Strong statistical skills are desirable, and computer programming skills (LINUX, scripting, R, and/or Matlab) will be an advantage;
- Excellent communications skills in English, both written and verbal;

Benefits

The base stipend will be equivalent to RTP rate, which is currently AUD\$ 26,682 per annum (2017 rate, indexed annually) tax-free for three years, subject to satisfactory progress. A top up scholarship may be available for excellent candidates.

Selection

Eligible candidates are selected on the basis of academic merit, strength of supporting documentation and the terms of the CRE Optymise scholarship. Interviews will take place with a selection of applicants for final selection.

Interested?

For more information about the position you can contact Dr. Lianne Schmaal, via email: lianne.schmaal@orygen.org.au

To apply, please send an electronic copy of 1) your Curriculum Vitae listing any degrees, awards, prior publications, and work experience, 2) a transcript of your grades, 3) a letter explaining your interest in the position and 4) a sample of your written work (academic writing) to lianne.schmaal@orygen.org.au