



Melbourne Ageing Research Collaboration

MARC PhD Scholarship Terms & Conditions (2018)

What is MARC?

The Melbourne Ageing Research Collaboration (MARC) aims to improve the lives of older people through the rapid translation of research into policy and practice, to influence systemic change. MARC is a consortium of partners, bringing together health and aged care services, universities, research and advocacy organisations, and the broader community.

MARC was formed on the basis of an identified gap in knowledge sharing amongst key stakeholders in the field of ageing and ageing research. Working as a strategic partnership, MARC is combining resources and expertise to influence policy and practice in Victoria and beyond for the benefit of older people.

Formed in 2014, MARC has the potential to influence over 80,000 staff in partner organisations, community, university, and government entities as well as the older people with whom they come into contact.

Our Partners and Supporters

MARC is led by the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI), and currently consists of Austin Health, Australian Unity, Deakin University, Dementia Australia, Mercy Health, Monash University, North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network, Northern Health, RMIT University, St Vincent's Health, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, The University of Melbourne, and Western Health.

MARC is supported by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and JO & JR Wicking Trust.

For more information please visit www.nari.net.au/marc/about-marc

The MARC PhD Program

MARC has provision to financially support up to three full-time PhD stipends for three years.

In addition to these full PhD stipend, there is capacity to support PhD student projects however, these will be non-remunerated and funding to underwrite student stipends will have to be sourced externally.



To undertake a PhD through MARC the terms and conditions listed below must be met. **These terms and conditions must be signed off by the MARC partners in an established agreement prior advertising the scholarships.**

1. TOPIC

- a. The PhD topic must concord with one of the four MARC themes – i.e., Dementia, Falls Prevention, End of Life/Palliative Care, and Healthy Ageing.
- b. Within one of the themes, the student and the supervisory team may then develop the topic concerning methods, settings, population groups, and epistemology.
- c. The project must be feasible within the scope of a PhD.
- d. The project must have a translational component - i.e. be able to demonstrate direct scientific and/or clinical benefit to the services involved in MARC.
- e. The MARC Steering Committee must approve the research topic.
- f. The eventual topic must align with a broader program of work that will be subject to external funding applications for larger grants such as from the NHMRC and Department of Health.

2. STUDENT SELECTION

- a. The PhD candidate will be appointed based on four selection criteria:
 - i. Quality of the proposal (40%)
 - ii. Quality of the candidate (20%)
 - iii. Quality of the research environment (20%)
 - iv. Potential for knowledge translation (20%)
- b. The potential candidate will need to meet the eligibility requirements of the enrolling MARC academic partner in order to enrol in their PhD program. There may also be additional selection criteria from MARC (e.g. written application, interview for shortlisted candidates etc.)
- c. Preference will initially be given to staff from the MARC partner services (e.g. health services, peak bodies etc.). However, all appointments will be competitive and based on merit.
- d. Preference will initially be given to candidates without an existing doctorate at the time of application.

3. SUPERVISION

- a. The supervision team must include a representative from an academic partner; a representative from NARI; and a representative from one of the health services/peak bodies/other groups.
- b. The supervisory team must abide by the rules for academic PhD supervision as held by the academic partner institution.
- c. If a supervisory arrangement is to be changed, this must be in consultation with the student, the supervisory team, and MARC on a case-by-case basis.

4. FUNDING

- a. Funding is for a period of three years full-time.
- b. PhD Scholarship stipend of \$30,000 per year tax-free will be provided for full-time study load.
- c. Students are eligible to apply for 'top-up' funding to their living stipend and/or other sources of funding to support their PhD project.
- d. The scholarship will be administered by the academic partner institution.

- e. The student is required to provide an annual progress report to the MARC and present on their progress to date at one MARC event and/or meeting every year.
- f. The student must abide by the rules for undertaking a PhD as held by the academic partner institution.

5. PUBLICATION

- a. The PhD must be a thesis by publication.

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- a. Any potential intellectual property arising from the PhD must be negotiated according to the policies and procedures as held by the academic partner institution.

7. DURATION

- a. The maximum duration of the scholarship will be for 3 years at full-time equivalent.
- b. The amount of the scholarship may be reduced if previous study components contribute towards the scholarship and/or the PhD is completed in less than 3 years.
- c. Other entitlements will be determined under the conditions of enrolment at the academic partner institution.