

# FedUni and Barwon Coast Management Committee Scholarship Application

Project: **Exploring the impacts of population shifts, increased urbanisation, and seasonal variation on coastal communities and ecosystems**

Location: Ballarat, Victoria

Surname

Given name

Address

Telephone

Email

Are you a current FedUni HDR candidate?      Yes      No

Student ID

**Successful applicants will be advised by 13/07/2018, and will be expected to commence by 30/08/18.**

For questions related to the scholarship topics, please contact Dr Angela Murphy, (03 5327-6198 [aa.murphy@federation.edu.au](mailto:aa.murphy@federation.edu.au))

## Conditions

Scholarships are available for domestic students only. Scholarships are full-time, with no possibility of being undertaken part-time during candidature. Students will be required to commit to a minimum of four days per week “on site” and participate in an industry placement during the term of the candidature. Scholarships are for a period of three years. Extensions to scholarships will not be granted.

General conditions of HDR Scholarships at FedUni can be found at:

[http://policy.federation.edu.au/research/higher\\_degrees\\_by\\_research/hdr\\_candidate\\_selection/hdr\\_candidate\\_selection/ch06.php](http://policy.federation.edu.au/research/higher_degrees_by_research/hdr_candidate_selection/hdr_candidate_selection/ch06.php). Where these conditions differ to those on this form, the conditions outlined for this specific scholarship take precedence.

## Eligibility to undertake a PhD

To be eligible to undertake a PhD, students must meet [eligibility requirements outlined on the Research website](#). If you are applying for “Honours equivalence,” please ensure that you provide detailed information to support your case.

## Referees

Please nominate one referee who can comment on your academic/scholarly/research experience and capacity, and one referee who can comment on your practice experience, particularly in relation to the topic area. Referee reports must be returned to Research Services by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 for your application to be considered. Any applicant without referee report forms will not be forwarded for consideration.

**Statement**

All prospective candidates are required to provide a 1000 word statement covering the following areas:

- Discuss your motivations for applying for this PhD scholarship, and your intended outcomes (both for yourself (personally and professionally), and for the sector)
- Discuss some of the key policy imperatives/directions, and existing research literature, which impact this topic area
- Discuss the opportunities and constraints of the proposed methodology (or, where a methodology has not been explicitly identified, please identify a relevant methodology and discuss the opportunities and constraints)
- Discuss potential challenges and how you might overcome them

Please list all documents provided, including supporting information:

	<b>Required Documents</b>		<b>Other Supporting Documents</b>
	<a href="#">HDR Application for Enrolment Form</a>		List of published works
	2500 word statement		
	Qualifications		
	Transcripts		
	Scholarship Application (this form)		

**For questions regarding the application process for scholarships and candidature, please contact Research Services at: [research.degrees@federation.edu.au](mailto:research.degrees@federation.edu.au).**

**Applications for the FedUni Barwon Coast scholarship close Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and can be submitted via mail, email or in person**

For general scholarship and candidature information, please contact:

Research Services,  
Federation University Australia,  
P.O. Box 663, Ballarat VIC 3353,  
Telephone: 03 5327 9508  
Email: [research.degree@federation.edu.au](mailto:research.degree@federation.edu.au)

Office Use			
Research Services	Date of Receipt:		Scholarship Registration Number:
Returned to Research Services	Date of Receipt:		2018 / .....

## Research project outline

# Exploring the impacts of population shifts, increased urbanisation, and seasonal variation on coastal communities and ecosystems

**Commencement date: August 2018**

Coastal environments are experiencing significant population shifts, increased levels of urbanisation and an associated increase in tensions across their communities arising from a range of factors including seasonal variations in population numbers, ecosystem threats and differing perspectives on shared recreational spaces (on issues such as domestic animals, parking, and beach access). While previous research has identified the importance of including community and community groups in problem identification and resolution, how to balance eco system protection with the diverse recreational and lifestyle needs of changing coastal communities continues to be a contemporary unresolved issue. As coastal populations increase to accommodate 'sea changers', and those seeking the option of coastal living, exploring and building understanding these emerging challenges have become research imperatives.

This project would seek to build a knowledge base around the social and ecosystem factors defining coastal environments and the correlation of these to coastal management and eco-protection challenges. Building on an existing research partnership between the Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation (CeRDI), and the Barwon Coastal Management Committee, the research will consolidate complex and disparate views on coastal use and management available through baseline data captured within this partnership during early 2018. In an extension of this work, the Bellarine Peninsula will be used as the data collection point. The study will seek to further develop the recognised link between community and environment to develop a collaborative multi-faceted response to key identified challenges facing coastal management locally, nationally and globally.

The research will be informed by a comprehensive literature review of existing evidence, and, through the lens of a series of case studies (community focused and/or eco system specific dependent on the focus of the research applicant), apply a mixed-method approach. It will involve the use of surveys, interviews, participant observation, document and demographic analysis to explore: 1) the knowledge, behaviours and attitude of diverse beach users, community members, coastal management staff and other relevant stakeholders around human impact on the coastal environment; 2) dominant norms in place determining approaches to environmental protection and equitable community use of beaches and coastal areas; 3) critical social and environmental issues and response options; and, 4) community mobilisation to engage, promote, adopt and advocate for the effective management of complex coastal community and environmental issues.

The successful candidate will be housed within CeRDI and will form part of a large existing Higher Degree by Research cohort operating within the centre.

**Sponsor:** Barwon Coast Management Committee **Hosting Agency:** Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation (CeRDI)

**Academic Supervisors:** Dr Angela Murphy; Dr Birgita Hansen

**Industry Co-Supervisor:** Gary McPike (Barwon Coast Committee of Management)