

FedUni and Central Highlands LLEN Scholarship Application

Project: **A collective impact approach to improving student engagement, retention and pathways in government secondary schools**

Location: Ballarat, Victoria

Surname

Given name

Address

Telephone

Email

Are you a current FedUni HDR candidate? Yes No

Student ID

Shortlisted applicants will be required to attend an interview between 2nd – 13th July 2018. Successful applicants will be advised by 16/07/2018, and will be expected to commence by 30/08/18.

For questions related to the scholarship topics, please contact Professor John McDonald (03 5327-9611 j.mcdonald@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. 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 2nd 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 2500 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:

	Required Documents		Other Supporting Documents
	HDR Application for Enrolment Form		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.

Applications for the FedUni Central Highlands LLEN scholarship close Friday 29th 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

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

Research project outline

A collective impact approach to improving student engagement, retention and pathways in government secondary schools

Project Outline:

The Central Highlands region has high rates of student disengagement, a surge in the numbers of students enrolled in various alternative programs, and comparatively low retention rates through to Year 12 or equivalent. Our analysis of school data confirmed that two structural factors drive high levels of student disengagement in the Central Highlands: regionality and socio-economic disadvantage. Extensive evidence exists that students from non-metropolitan schools and those from a disadvantaged background have a lower Year 12 or equivalent completion rate than the Victorian average (Victorian Auditor General, 2012). In Ballarat, a third structural factor is at play: a market-driven, highly competitive, secondary education system. The consequence for Ballarat is a notable degree of school social segregation and residualism – both between the government and non-government sectors, and among the government schools themselves. Student funding, zoning and enrolment systems operating in the school sector can further marginalise young people. These factors and forces reproduce the disengagement problem.

Based upon a collective impact approach, Child and Youth Area Partnerships are an initiative of the Victorian Government to improve the life chances of at-risk children, young people and their families. Eight partnerships have been established across Victoria. The Central Highlands Child and Youth Area Partnership (CHCYAP) plan focuses on improving educational outcomes across the region, with the aim of ensuring that all young people exit the education system at the right time and for the right reason to enter work, further training or higher education. Further details about the Area Partnership can be found at: <https://areapartnerships.vic.gov.au/>

The Central Highlands Partnership has already demonstrated significant commitment through cash and in-kind contributions to a research collaboration with Federation University. Further details about the Research Collaboration can be found at: <https://federation.edu.au/faculties-and-schools/faculty-of-education-and-arts/research/fea-research-groups/children-and-youth-area-partnership-cyap-research-collaboration/central-highlands-children-and-youth-area-partnership-chcyap>

This project will use Cabaj and Weaver's (2016) collective impact framework to investigate and inform the actions of the Area Partnership leadership group in tackling the structural, systemic issues that perpetuate high rates of student disengagement. Research methods will include analysis of statistical data, interviews with key informants, case studies of young people, analysis of official documents, and observation of relevant meetings. It is expected that this project will make a significant contribution to knowledge about innovative strategies to improve educational outcomes for students. Further details about the collective impact framework can be found at: <http://www.collaborationforimpact.com/collective-impact-3-0/>