



A joint venture between The University of Melbourne and The Royal Melbourne Hospital

Yiaga Ngarnga Scholarship for Infection and Immunity (Doctorate)*

Proudly supported by the Lionel Gell Foundation

*The Doherty Institute is proud to have worked with the Wurundjeri Council to name this prestigious scholarship, the Yiağa Ngarnga Scholarship. The translation is 'to seek meaning and understanding'.

Overview

Status: Open

Approximate value: \$105,000 scholarship for 3.5 years plus up to \$20,000 per year for other expenses such as living, travel, and IT costs

Open: 1 August 2018

Close: 31 September 2018

Area of study: One Yiağa Ngarnga Scholarship for Infection and Immunity is available. Scholarship will be for student based at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity.

Funding type: Scholarship (Stipend)

Citizenship: Australian Citizen

Indigenous Australians: Scholarship is open to candidates identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Prior qualifications: Applicants must meet the entry requirements for PhD entry in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne

Yiaga Ngarnga Scholarship for Infection and Immunity (Doctorate)* continued

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For more information on eligibility, please contact Warwick Padgham at Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health (padghamw@unimelb.edu.au)

Enrolment status: Commencing students

Student type: Graduate research

Tenure: Maximum tenure 3.5 years

Background

Prospective students are invited to apply for the prestigious Yiaga Ngarnga Scholarship for Infection and Immunity. The Scholarship was launched following a generous donation from the Lionel Gell Foundation to the Doherty Institute and with support from the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne. The scholarship supports postgraduate research for an Indigenous Australian graduate with demonstrated excellence in the area of Immunology or Infectious Diseases research who is eligible to be approved as a full-time candidate for graduate research degrees in the Schools of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne.

The scholarship is open to students wishing to undertake their studies with departments located within the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute). The Doherty Institute is a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital, combining research, teaching, public health and reference laboratory services, diagnostic services and clinical care in infection and immunity. Named in honour of Laureate Professor Peter Doherty, winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize for discovering how the immune system recognises virus-infected cells, the Doherty Institute is one of only a few centres in the world that brings together basic scientists, clinicians and epidemiologists who work collaboratively to solve global health problems.



Yiaga Ngarnga Scholarship for Infection and Immunity (Doctorate)* continued

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The majority of the around 100 PhD students currently at the Doherty Institute are enrolled through the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and its high performing bacteriology, virology and immunology research groups. However, the Doherty Institute also includes state of the art public health laboratories, infectious diseases clinical service, investigators from the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and Melbourne Medical School, among whom there is expertise in clinical medicine, epidemiology, clinical and translational research, infectious diseases surveillance, outbreak investigation activities and clinical trials.

Through the Institute's mission to prevent, treat and cure infectious diseases, the health of Australia's Indigenous peoples is a cross cutting discipline, to which all areas of research are encouraged to contribute. It is of critical importance to the team at the Doherty Institute that we play an increasingly meaningful role in reducing the unacceptable burden of infectious disease borne by Indigenous Australians. The Doherty Institute is enthusiastic to train the next generation of exceptional Indigenous researchers specialising in Infection and Immunity, and we are working with Indigenous communities across Australia to develop research partnerships that lead to real improvements in health. We actively strive to provide a culturally safe and supportive working environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues.

The Yiağa Ngarnga Scholar at the Doherty Institute may be provided with the following opportunities as appropriate to their research:

- Exposure to areas of research being conducted at the Doherty Institute, including immunology, virology, epidemiology, genomics, clinical research and others
- A very high quality research experience, leading to the production of a highly regarded thesis and associated publications



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Yiaga Ngarnga Scholarship for Infection and Immunity (Doctorate)* continued

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- Additional training in areas unique to, or central to, the Doherty Institute, such as working under high level containment, clinical translation (ie. working on clinical problems using clinical samples)
- Opportunities to work closely with existing partners and projects in northern Australia, such as Indigenous Health Discipline co-lead Associate Professor Steven Tong's work on HBV infection in Indigenous communities in Northern Queensland and the Torres Strait Islands
- Funded opportunities to network, both physically and virtually, with scientists researching in similar areas in Australia and overseas and to join collaborative research ventures in e.g. Bonn (Germany), Birmingham (UK), Shanghai (China), Bangkok (Thailand), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Ho Chi Minh city (Vietnam), Bangalore (India), Suva (Fiji), Durban (South Africa) or elsewhere (a newly established relationship with the Pasteur Institute will also provide additional opportunities in Paris or through the Pasteur International Network)
- Tailored support through leadership development and mentoring with the Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, including academic and research skills training

The Institute is also exploring new ways to engage students with Industry and hope to offer industry internships in future years.

Who can apply?

- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who are interested in undertaking a PhD in Infection and Immunity and meet the selection criteria
- All applicants are advised to contact the Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health for advice on eligibility and the application process



Yiaga Ngarnga Scholarship for Infection and Immunity (Doctorate)* continued

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- Applicants must meet the PhD entry requirements for the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students currently enrolled in post graduate courses at the University of Melbourne are encouraged to apply
- The successful awardee must enrol and commence studies before 31 May 2019
- Applicants must be interested in undertaking a project with a high degree of relevance to Infection and Immunity (this may include projects in discovery science, translational, clinical, or public health research)
- The application form needs to be accompanied by a letter of support from the proposed supervisor indicating how the Scholarship will help achieve the goals of the research project

Selection process

The Selection Committee will base their decision on information provided in the application using a range of criteria. The Selection Committee reserves the right to not offer the Scholarship in a given round.

Further details

The value of the scholarship awarded will be determined by the Committee. Scholarships offered may therefore vary in value and tenure. The maximum scholarship amount awarded will be up to \$30,000 for a maximum of 3.5 years (doctoral degree) plus up to \$20,000 for other costs per annum. The selection committee may offer scholarships at a reduced rate at their discretion; for example, where applicants are awarded (or already hold) another



Yiaga Ngarnga Scholarship for Infection and Immunity (Doctorate)* continued

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scholarship or where recipients are already enrolled in a PhD and have less than 3.5 years of candidature remaining.

How to apply

All interested candidates should contact the Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health for advice on eligibility and the application process. They will also offer support through the University of Melbourne's Academic Shepherding Program, which provides assistance to prospective students on developing the required information requested in the steps below.

1. Complete an online application through the University of Melbourne website:
 - a. Applicants must be interested in undertaking a project with a high degree of relevance to Infection and Immunity (this may include projects in discovery science, translational, clinical, or public health research)
 - b. Review the Selection Criteria and consider your eligibility for this scholarship
 - c. Review the the PhD entry requirements for the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
 - d. Review supervisors/researchers at the Doherty Institute to identify who you would like to work with, using the website <http://www.doherty.edu.au>
 - e. Make contact with the potential supervisor and discuss your interest in commencing PhD studies and in applying for the Scholarship (if your potential supervisor endorses you to proceed, they will provide you with an email indicating support, which you should include in your formal application)



A joint venture between The University of Melbourne and The Royal Melbourne Hospital

Yiaga Ngarnga Scholarship for Infection and Immunity (Doctorate)* continued

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- f. Complete the University of Melbourne online application before 31 October 2018 at <https://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/applications/research> (use PhD course code DR-PHILMDH and remember to apply for scholarships so that you can be considered for all scholarships, including the Yiaga Ngarnga Scholarship)
2. Submit an expression of interest to mdhs-scholarships@unimelb.edu.au by 31 October 2018. Your expression of interest for the Scholarship should include the following:
 - a. A current Curriculum Vitae
 - b. An expression of interest (2 pages max.), including a brief description of the research project proposal and details of your proposed supervisor and research group
 - c. A clear statement of what you wish to study at the Doherty Institute and your interest in infection / immunity research
 - d. A clear statement of your career aspirations

The successful awardees must enrol and commence studies before 31 May 2019.

Outcomes and enquiries

We will endeavour to provide you with the outcome of your formal course and scholarship application by 14 December 2018, assuming the application is complete at the time of submission.

Selection criteria

The Scholarship will be awarded based on the following criteria:



A joint venture between The University of Melbourne and The Royal Melbourne Hospital

Yiaga Ngarnga Scholarship for Infection and Immunity (Doctorate)* continued

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- Entry into a PhD at the University of Melbourne
- Demonstrated experience and interest in the study of Infection and Immunity, through previous academic study, research experience and professional experience
- An academic reference demonstrating the capacity of the candidate to complete a PhD in the study of Infection and Immunity