

Research Scholarship

PhD Scholarship: Supporting people with HIV

Developing and refining a digital platform to support people to age well with HIV

The opportunity

This industry PhD scholarship provides an exciting opportunity to undertake applied research with leading HIV research groups that is embedded within the work of key HIV community organisations in Victoria.

Highly effective HIV therapies have resulted in an aging population of people living with HIV and created a need to develop and maintain effective programs to support people to age well with HIV. Through this PhD, you will have the opportunity to work with leading HIV researchers at La Trobe University and the Burnet Institute, HIV clinicians at the Alfred Hospital, and program implementers at Living Positive Victoria and Thorne Harbour Health. This PhD is embedded within a three-year project to develop, implement and refine an online platform to support the psychosocial and health needs of older people living with HIV. The project adopts an iterative refinement/implementation science approach to program development and evaluation.

The first phase of the project will involve quantitative and qualitative formative research to inform the implementation of the online platform. The second phase will involve the technical build, development and trialling of the online platform. The platform build will emphasise a shared experience model to create 'digital communities' and a peer-support environment.

The third phase will involve a trial period where the platform goes live and is iteratively evaluated and refined. The trial will aim to integrate the platform into existing services for people living with HIV in Victoria.

This project will work closely with community organisations and the affected community. As an applicant you should have an interest in community-based program implementation. This PhD would suit applicants with some experience working with or in community-based organisations.

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS)

Based at La Trobe University in Melbourne, ARCSHS is a centre for social research into sexuality, health and the social dimensions of sex and human relationships. It works collaboratively and in partnership with academic research institutions, communities, governments, international aid agencies to produce research that advances knowledge and promotes positive change in policy and practice.

Burnet Institute

Burnet Institute is a leading Australian medical research and public health organisation focused on achieving better health for vulnerable communities in Australia and internationally by accelerating the translation of research, discovery and evidence into sustainable health solutions.

Contact us: Egrs@latrobe.edu.au [W latrobe.edu.au/grs](http://W.latrobe.edu.au/grs)

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Benefits

Benefits of the scholarship include:

- a La Trobe Research Scholarship for three and a half years, with a value of \$27,596 per annum, to support your living costs (2019 rate)
 - in addition to receiving the tax-free stipend of \$27,596 per annum, the successful candidate will also be provided with an RTP scholarship, which effectively covers their tuition fees.
 - a fee-relief scholarship (LTUFFRS) for four years to undertake a PhD at La Trobe University (international applicants only)
 - opportunities to work with outstanding researchers at La Trobe and the Burnet Institute
 - an opportunity to integrate high quality research with community-based program development
- access to La Trobe's suite of professional development programs.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply, you need to meet academic requirements such as:

- have a Masters by research degree in a relevant discipline completed within the last ten years assessed at a La Trobe Masters by research standard of 75 or above; or
- equivalency based on an Honours or other minor thesis as determined by the Academic Entry Requirements in La Trobe University's Graduate Research Admissions Policy

Desirable:

- Community-based program experience
- HIV or related sector experience
- Development of internet-based interventions or resources
- Able to commence in early 2020.

How to apply

If you wish to apply for the Aging Well with HIV Scholarship, follow these steps:

1. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the opportunity email Dr Graham Brown, Head of BBV and STI Research, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society
2. Submit an application for the scholarship and PhD candidature by the closing date: Follow the instructions on how to apply under Step 3 at [latrobe.edu.au/research/future](https://www.latrobe.edu.au/research/future)
In your application, indicate clearly that you wish to be considered for the Aging Well with HIV Industry PhD.

3. Interview: If you are shortlisted for the scholarship and candidature, you will be invited to an interview with representatives of La Trobe and the Burnet Institute.
4. Final decision: the final decision will be made based on your application and interview. The successful candidate will be made an offer for candidature and scholarship.

Please make sure your application is complete and reaches us within the deadline, as we are unable to consider incomplete and/or late applications.

Note: Successful applicants will work under the supervision of Dr Graham Brown (ARCSHS) and Professor Mark Stooze (Burnet Institute), so you don't need to find a supervisor.

La Trobe will carefully review your application and consider you for this scholarship. We anticipate that applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application in October and that the successful applicant will commence candidature in early 2020.

Closing date

Applications close on Monday 30 September

ENQUIRE NOW >

If you require further information about the project, please contact:

Dr Graham Brown
Head of BBV at STI Research
graham.brown@latrobe.edu.au

For more information on scholarship eligibility and how to apply, visit <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/research/future/costs-scholarships/specialist-scholarships>.

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Burnet Institute
Medical Research. Practical Action.

