

Victoria University (VU) & Young And Well Cooperative Research Centre (Young and Well CRC) Postgraduate Research Scholarship Guidelines

Background

This application form relates to a VU & Young And Well CRC scholarship to undertake a specific PhD research project. This project will examine the psychosocial impacts on participants in a growing network of technology club for young people diagnosed with High Functioning Autism or Asperger's Syndrome. Outcomes of this doctoral research study will include:

- New knowledge about the innovative deployment of technology (including multi-user computer games) in social contexts with young people diagnosed with High Functioning Autism or Asperger's Syndrome, and;
- Innovative methodologies that accurately and ethically represent young people's voices, including methodologies that involve the use of digital technologies.

The Lab (www.thelab.org.au) is a growing network of 'technology clubs' for young people diagnosed with High Functioning Autism or Asperger's Syndrome, as well as their parents and carers. Established in early 2011, The Lab currently caters for 150 families in eight locations in Melbourne, Sydney, Geelong and Darwin, with other locations in the planning stages. The Lab is guided by an incorporated not-for-profit company, The Lab Network Ltd, with a board of directors comprised of Lab and parents representatives.

All Labs offer personal mentoring in technology by programming and design professionals, as well as the chance to meet others and develop social skills in a relaxed and supportive environment.

The focus of the PhD project will be:

- The development of innovative research methodologies, informed or mediated by technology, that respond to the needs of young people diagnosed with High Functioning Autism or Asperger's Syndrome, and that accurately reflect participants' 'voices';
- The use of these methodologies to (a) better understand how the Lab works, especially in its interaction of the technological and the social; and (b) develop cross-Lab evaluations that accurately capture impact on participants and families; and
- The development of protocols and guidelines for new Labs that are designed to facilitate maximum positive impact, based on evaluation data.

This project is concerned with exploring and developing innovative research methodologies that support and respect the safety and self-worth of young people diagnosed with High Functioning Autism or Asperger's Syndrome, and that are also reliable and valid. This research has the potential to influence current practice in how these young people are involved in research.

The Principal Supervisor for this scholarship will be Dr Tim Corcoran, Senior Research Fellow from The Victoria Institute: www.vu.edu.au/contact-us/tim-corcoran. The Associate Supervisor will be Dr. Stefan Schutt, a Research Program Leader in VU's Centre for Cultural Diversity and Wellbeing and co-founder of The Lab: <http://www.vu.edu.au/contact-us/stefan-schutt>.

All applications will be assessed against Victoria University's minimum admission criteria for entry to the PhD program: <http://www.vu.edu.au/courses/browse-for-courses/by-course-level/postgraduate-studies/doctor-of-philosophy-phd>

In addition, applicants will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

- Demonstrated experience in computer technology platforms, especially collaborative game environments such as Minecraft and social networking platforms;
- Strong interest in the use of technology for research;
- An understanding of the needs and interests of young people with High Functioning Autism;
- Demonstrated experience in social impact programs;
- Strong research skills; and
- An ability to work independently while under direction.

The successful applicant will receive a living allowance equivalent to the current APA rate (\$24,653 per annum in 2013) for three years. CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2013

Victoria University & Young And Well CRC Postgraduate Research Scholarship Application Form

Applicant Details

Title (eg. Mr, Ms, Miss)	Surname or Family Name	Given Name(s)

Country of Birth

Address for Correspondence

Home Phone Number (include country and area codes):

Work Phone Number (include country and area codes):

--	--

Email Address

--

VU Student ID Number (if previously or currently enrolled)

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Residency Details

Of which country are you a citizen?

--

Are you a permanent resident of Australia?

--

A certified copy of a document showing proof of citizenship and/or permanent residency status must be attached to your application. This may be a birth certificate, a passport (with copy of permanent residency visa page) or certificate of citizenship.

English Language Competence

All applicants must satisfy at least one of the following English language requirements. Please indicate how you have satisfied the English language requirements by ticking selection(s) below.

English is my first language.

I have satisfactorily completed tertiary studies in Australia within the last two years (or in an equivalent English language context e.g.: USA, Canada, UK).

I have successfully completed an approved English Language program at _____ with an exit level equivalent to the IELTS or TOEFL entry level for postgraduate research*.

Either

A) I have a score of 6.5 or more on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with no band less than 6.0*
or.

B) I have a score of 92 or more on the Testing English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL- internet) with no section score less than 22*

***Please note:** Certified copies of documentary evidence (such as English test results or English language course transcripts) **must** be attached to your application. Only applications with evidence submitted by Friday 1 November 2013 will be assessed.

Scholarship Eligibility Checklist

1	Have you previously held, or do you currently hold any scholarship/award? If YES, please provide details. Name of Scholarship/Award: _____ Dates of Scholarship/Award: From ____/____/____ to ____/____/____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2	Have you already completed a PhD or research Doctorate degree or equivalent?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3	Have you already commenced the Masters or PhD degree for which you are seeking a scholarship? If YES, please provide details. Degree in which currently enrolled: <input type="checkbox"/> Masters <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor of Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Other Doctorate Dates of Enrolment: From ____/____/____ to ____/____/____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4	In 2014, will you be in receipt of another award, scholarship or salary of \$17,000 per annum or higher to undertake the same degree?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5	If you are offered a scholarship you MUST commence your research degree before 31 March 2014. Please indicate your expected commencement date	____ / ____ / 2013

Please ensure that you attach a current CV to this application. The CV should address the selection criteria outlined in the first page of this application form.

Qualifications

Please provide details of all undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications.

Attach certified copies of all transcripts and other relevant documentation, including any prizes or distinctions gained in your academic career that are not listed in the official transcripts.

Undergraduate Qualifications

Qualification	Institution	Level of Honours	Year Commenced	Year Completed

Postgraduate Qualifications

Qualification	Institution	Type of Course (Please tick)	Year Commenced	Year Completed
		Research <input type="checkbox"/>		
		Coursework <input type="checkbox"/>		
		Research <input type="checkbox"/>		
		Coursework <input type="checkbox"/>		

For any degree that was completed in a country other than Australia, you will need to provide a certified copy of the original academic transcript (including a key to result codes) with an English translation if necessary. Any supporting documents submitted in languages other than English, will require an official certified translation into English, in addition to the certified copy of the document.

Research Experience

Briefly describe your research experience. (If insufficient space, please attach a separate sheet)

Please list any publications (including dates of publication) of research or work that you have done individually or with others. (If insufficient space, please attach a separate sheet)

Please detail any employment experience that is relevant to this application. (If insufficient space, please attach a separate sheet)

Academic Referees

Please provide full details of two people whom you have asked to support your application. They should preferably be senior academics familiar with your most recent work.

Name:	
Address:	
Position:	
Telephone:	Email:

Name:	
Address:	
Position:	
Telephone:	Email:

Note: Reports from referees must be provided on the attached Academic Referee Report Form. Referees should complete the form and return it directly to Victoria University by the closing date of Friday 1 November 2013 either by mail or email.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that your referees submit their reports by the closing date.
Your application will not proceed if referee reports are not received.**

Declaration

I declare that the information submitted is complete, correct and true in every particular.

I authorise the University to obtain from educational institutions and relevant authorities at any time details of my enrolment, academic record, examination results and bond status, including details of enrolment variation, attendance and addresses during the year in connection with my scholarship/award application.

I understand that the University reserves the right to vary or reverse any decision made on the basis of incorrect or incomplete information. I am aware that there are severe penalties for providing false or misleading information.

I agree to abide by the scholarship/award conditions, as amended from time to time.

Applicant's Signature	Date

Application Checklist

**Please ensure that you provide ALL of the following documentation.
Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.**

- Original signed application with attachments as listed below (Do not include originals of attachments, provide certified copies)
- All Academic Transcripts and Records certified * copy, plus English translation (if required)
If awaiting results eg. Honours/master's thesis, please forward to the Scholarships Coordinator as soon as they become available.
- Birth Certificate, Citizenship Certificate or Passport certified * copy
- Copy of permanent residency visa (if applicable) certified * copy
- Evidence of English language proficiency (if English is not first language) certified * copy
- Current CV addressing selection criteria
- Further details of research or work experience / publications (If required)

SEND YOUR APPLICATION AND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO:

MAIL: Senior Coordinator, Research Scholarships
Graduate Research Centre
Victoria University, PO Box 14428
Melbourne, Victoria, 8001, AUSTRALIA

COURIER/INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS MAIL/IN PERSON:
Senior Coordinator, Research Scholarships
Room C320, Building C, Level 3
Victoria University
Ballarat Road, Footscray VIC 3011
AUSTRALIA

**Applications close at 4.00 pm on Friday 1 November 2013
Late or Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

The Lab Scholarship Application Form

CONFIDENTIAL REFEREE REPORT

Office Use Only

Application Reference No:

For the Applicant (This section to be completed by the applicant. Please type or print using black ink)

- Please complete your details below and pass a copy of each of the form to each of the two (2) people whom you wish to act as your academic referee. Each person should be a senior academic conversant with your most recent studies.

Applicant's Name

Applicant's Address

For the Referee (This section to be completed by the referee. Please use black ink)

- Referee comments are considered when assessing scholarship applications. The University is particularly interested in your opinion of the qualifications, experience, academic and research ability of the applicant. These should be judged with reference to the applicant's peer group. Reports must be returned by **FRIDAY 1 November 2013**. Please note that applications cannot be considered unless referee reports are returned by this date. Do not return this form to the applicant – return to the address given at the end of this form.

Referee's Name:

Address:

Position:

 (including capacity
 in which you are aware of
 the applicant's academic potential)

Telephone:

Email:

Please give your appraisal of the candidate by ticking the appropriate box, using the following key as a guide. Please rate the applicant in comparison with others you have known who have successfully undertaken postgraduate study. Please use the space available to comment on your ranking decision.

◆ Outstanding = Top 5%	◆ Very Good = 6% - 10%	◆ Good = 11% - 20%	◆ Average = 21% - 40%	◆ Poor
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1. How do you rate the applicant's postgraduate research potential?

Outstanding

Very Good

Good

Average

Poor

2. If the applicant has completed a thesis based on research, how do you rate the thesis?

Outstanding

Very Good

Good

Average

Poor

