Behaviour Change
Graduate Research Industry Partnership:

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for applicants.

LAST UPDATED: 21/2/19

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1.1 Why study behaviour change?

There is strong demand for behavioural experts around the world as more and more government and industry leaders, including those who are committed to the Sustainable Development Goals, begin to recognise that their programs are more likely to succeed if they are underpinned by an understanding of human behaviour – and how to influence it.

The Behaviour Change GRIP seeks to fill this need by developing a new cohort of PhD-qualified researchers and practitioners with sophisticated and adaptive research skills.

1.2 What are the advantages of joining a Monash GRIP over a traditional PhD?

Students participating in the Behaviour Change Graduate Research Industry Partnership are part of a group who will learn from each other and each other’s PhD experiences. Collaboration between students will be as much a key to success as good supervision and the professional development program that will be delivered as part of the BC-GRIP. Other features of a GRIP include:

· They embrace different disciplines, both in terms of the supervision team as well as the backgrounds of students that will be part of the cohort. Candidates will actively be encouraged to think about their projects through different disciplinary lenses.
· There is a strong emphasis placed on getting to know and understand the government partners in the GRIP. To support this, there will be an initial intense industry placement as well as regular co-location throughout candidature. There will also be a key partner contact, a Monash staff member who can facilitate integration and, in some cases, PhD supervision may be provided by the partner organisation.
· There is a common professional development program which includes industry placement, keynote speakers and presentations from different disciplines, behaviour change training, bespoke training and mini conferences.

1.3 What are the career opportunities once I complete the BC-GRIP PhD?

Demand for behavioural experts is growing worldwide as more government and industry leaders recognise that their programs are more likely to succeed if they are underpinned by an understanding of human behaviour - and how to influence it. This GRIP will provide individuals with PhD research skills, ready to tackle those challenges in government and/or industry. Students will be able to apply for jobs such as behavioural - researcher / analyst / scientist / economist / specialist, as well as other research or policy officer roles.

1.4 Where will I be located?

All students, when not in situ with partners, will be co-located at the Monash Sustainable Development Institute.

**Monash Sustainable Development Institute**: 8 Scenic Boulevard Clayton, Victoria

Partners are located:

- **Australian and New Zealand School of Government**: 4/204 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria
- **Australia Post**: 111 Bourke St, Melbourne, Victoria
1.5 How long will my PhD take?

The normal length of candidature is considered to be three (3) years full-time with some limited opportunity for extension to this time. It is expected that students design a project that can be completed within three (3) years of the commencement of candidature.

1.6 What training will be provided?

A well-articulated professional development program has been designed for successful candidates which includes core PhD skills and behaviour change training, personal and professional development, peer to peer learning and industry co-location.

1.7 How will the Industry Placement work?

Understanding partner organisations, how they deliver on their scope and their strategic priorities is vital to designing research projects that are sensitive to their needs. Therefore candidates will spend time with their host organisation throughout their candidature, including an intense initial period early in 2018. In collaboration with partners and supervisors, candidates will refine their projects to meet both the requirements of a PhD and partner needs.

1.8 Can I undertake the BC-GRIP PhD on a part-time basis?

No. The BC-GRIP scholarship is only available to full time students.

1.9 What does a full-time week look like?

All candidates are expected to work on their PhD a minimum of 4 days each week, Monday to Friday, during normal business hours.

1.10 What qualification will I get?

Completing candidates will receive a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).
2 Scholarship

2.1 What are the entry requirements for entry into the BC-GRIP PhD Scholarship?
Eligibility requirements are noted on the BC-GRIP webpage [https://www.monash.edu/behaviour-change-grip/phd-opportunity](https://www.monash.edu/behaviour-change-grip/phd-opportunity).

2.2 Are International Candidates Eligible to apply?
No. The BC-GRIP is only available to Domestic Students.

2.3 Does the scholarship rate increase each year?
The BC-GRIP Scholarship rate is equivalent to the basic Research Training Program (RTP) stipend, plus an annual top-up of $2000. The BC-Scholarship rate will increase in line with the RTP annual increase, usually processed in late January each year. The top-up is fixed at $2000 per year for 3 years.

2.4 Is there a relocation allowance for interstate?
No, there is no relocation allowance.

2.5 Do I have to pay tax for my scholarship payments?
The BC-GRIP Scholarship rate (equivalent to the Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend) and top-up living allowance are tax free.

2.6 Can I defer my place if I am successful?
No. Students are expected to commence within 3 months of application.

2.7 When/how will I receive scholarship payment?
Scholarship payment and top-up, will be transferred to your nominated bank account on a fortnightly basis.

2.8 Do I get holidays and other leave entitlements?
Yes, you are eligible to take 20 days recreation leave each year as well as other types of personal leave as noted in chapter 4.1 of the Doctoral Student Handbook.

2.9 Will BC-GRIP scholarships be offered again?
This is the first time the Behaviour Change GRIP program has been offered. Although it may be offered again in the future, there are no current plans for another intake. If you are interested in the BC-GRIP we strongly recommend you put in your EOI for this round.

2.10 Can I work part time?
Full-time students are permitted to undertake part-time, paid employment throughout the year. This employment must not interfere with the requirement of students to devote at least 4 days each week between Monday to Friday inclusive and during normal business hours on each of those days, to the pursuit of their study program. Students are expected to be present during standard working hours to enable interaction with their supervisory team and their cohort as required, unless they are on an agreed placement with their partner.
3 Application and Enrolment

3.1 How do I apply?
Please note that there are 2 stages to application.

Stage 1 – An Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted. If successful, a shortlist of potential candidates will be invited to an interview.

Stage 2 – The preferred candidate from interview will be ‘invited to submit an application’.

3.2 How will my application be assessed? What is the selection process?
Entry is competitive and applicants will be assessed according to their academic record, work experience and ‘fit’ with the Industry Partner. This will be facilitated through:

1. Expression of Interest (EOI) - To review suitability of the candidate
2. Interview - To validate EOI and assess for ‘fit’ with the Industry Partner and Supervision team.
3. Application - To confirm eligibility and perform reference checks.

3.3 When will I be advised if successful?
Successful applicants will be advised shortly after interview and invited to submit a formal application. Offer letters are expected to be provided mid-December.

3.4 Are there Tuition fees?
No, there are no tuition fees for research students who are Australian or New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents for the specified duration of their course.

3.5 Do I need to re-enrol each year?
Yes, you will be required to re-enrol online each year and shall be notified by letter and e-mail each October about the re-enrolment process. Failure to enrol will result in loss of student privileges such as library and Internet access.

4 Supervision

4.1 How does the supervisory system work?
Successful candidates will be supported by one Main Supervisor and at least one Associate Supervisor from Monash University. Where appropriate, one or more External Supervisors may also be included in the supervision team. In addition to formal supervision, students will have support from the partner organisation and BehaviourWorks Australia for the life of the project.

Further information regarding supervision is available in Chapter 5 of the Monash Handbook for Doctoral Degrees.

4.2 What are the obligations of my supervisor (and the university)?
These are outlined in Chapter 5 of the Monash Handbook for Doctoral Degrees.

4.3 Where can I find information on supervisors and their research areas?
Successful candidates will be invited to formally apply shortly after their interview. At this point they will be advised of their supervision team.
5 Doing a PhD

5.1 What are my obligations as a graduate research student?

There are a number of obligations that you have both formal and informal including:

- Following Occupational Health Safety and Environment requirements and ensuring that you meet the requirements of your candidature
- Work with the partners to keep them informed and updated on their research.
- Participate in the joint activities of the cohort (guest lectures, mini conference, bc training etc) as well as contribute to the cohort in the spirit of collegiality (e.g. share ideas / frustrations, participate in social events and media).