



MONASH
University

DEPARTMENT OF RESPIRATORY MEDICINE PHD PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF RESPIRATORY MEDICINE: ALFRED HOSPITAL & MONASH UNIVERSITY

PHD PROGRAM STRUCTURE & APPLICATION

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Alfred Hospital and Monash University Department of Respiratory Medicine PhD Program comprises four elements:

1. Preparation support
2. Research support
3. Funding support
4. Clinical appointment

Preparation Support

- Nomination and establishment of the supervisory team
- Assistance with formulation of the research question, design and plan
- Assistance with funding applications including scholarship funding and / or research funding, as required
- Establishment of mentorship and career development pathways
- Support for post-PhD path, including applications for NHMRC investigator grants or other early career fellowship opportunities.

Research Support

- Assistance with research project development and feasible aims
- Ethics application support as required
- Assistance with patient recruitment and / or database support as required
- Research training - enrolment in courses offered through the Central Clinical School
- Up to 5 hours of individual biostatistical assistance for study design and analysis, facilitated through Monash statistical consulting service
- Office space and IT support

Funding Support

In addition to assistance with funding applications for scholarship and / or research support, PhD candidates may be offered by either their supervisor or the Department of Respiratory Medicine:

- \$1,000 per candidate / year for 3 years to support travel to conferences, consumables, courses
- Opportunities to apply for travel grants through Monash University to attend conferences

Clinical Appointment

At the discretion of the Director of Respiratory Medicine, Professor Williams, and in alignment with the clinical needs of the unit, respiratory physician candidates may be offered a short-term, part time clinical appointment at Alfred Health in the Department of Respiratory Medicine. Clinical work will be determined by negotiation, but may include:

- Specialist Clinic
- Ward service
- Outreach services
- Composite of the above

We are offering a competitive, three-year PhD program that provides resources, funding, research support, supervision and mentorship to undertake doctoral studies. Through this program we aim to identify, support and nurture our future research leaders in Respiratory Medicine. The ability to align clinical practice and research activities, together with the breadth of research expertise available within our department, enables us to provide a unique and outstanding environment for clinician researchers.

APPLICATION PROCESSES

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered eligible for the PhD Program all candidates must:

- Meet the Admission Criteria for Monash University Doctoral Degree <https://www.monash.edu/graduate-research/support-and-resources/handbooks/content/chapter-two/2-1>
- Demonstrate an ability to build and maintain effective relationships with stakeholders, including consumers, clinical and scientific collaborators involved in studies.
- Demonstrate a capacity to conduct independent research as evidenced by successful completion of a research project as part of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians requirements for advanced training and / or as part of a thesis at Honours level or higher.
- Have excellent verbal and written communication skills to present information appropriately to a variety of audiences .

In addition, to be eligible for a Clinical Appointment, the candidate must:

- Physician candidates will need to hold a Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) or Doctor of Medicine (MD) or equivalent.
- Current registration as a Medical Practitioner with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (APHRA).
- Be registered as a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP), or will be awarded the qualification of FRACP prior to the commencement of their doctoral studies.

Supervisor Criteria

- In addition to the above eligibility criteria:
- The primary supervisor must be an accredited supervisor at Monash University in accordance with the university requirements
<https://www.monash.edu/graduate-research/supervision/supervisor>
- The primary supervisor must be a member of the Department of Respiratory Medicine.
- The candidate must be primarily enrolled through Department of Respiratory Medicine, Monash University.

Application Process

- Potential candidates contact a potential supervisor, member of the Department of Respiratory Medicine or the Respiratory Research Training Lead (A/Prof Natasha Smallwood) to discuss research interests, eligibility and opportunities.
- Submit an Expression of Interest, including a cover letter, CV, and brief 1 page research proposal (research question, aims, methods and anticipated timelines) to D.Halliwell@alfred.org.au
- Expressions of interest will be reviewed by the Departmental Research Group Leaders.
- Candidates meeting the eligibility criteria and whose EOI is deemed suitable by the Departmental Research Group Leaders will be invited to submit an application to enrol in a PhD through the Department of Respiratory Medicine (Central Clinical School, Monash University).

Unsuccessful candidates will be notified by email.

MECHANISM OF MONITORING PROGRAM SUCCESS

Program results and metrics as below will be presented annually at the Respiratory Medicine audit. Key performance indices include:

- Number of applications for the program
- Number of candidates commencing PhDs
- Proportion of candidates securing competitive research funding
- Proportion of candidates successfully completing in 3 years
- Proportion of candidates successfully receiving competitive postdoctoral research funding
- Proportion of candidates continuing with postdoctoral research

Related documents

Document 1: Program Summary Document

Document 2: Program Structure & Application Document

Document 3: Advertising Strategy

Document 4: Program Research Funding

Further information

For further information contact:

Respiratory Research Training Lead: A/Prof Natasha Smallwood
Natasha.smallwood@monash.edu

Graduate Research Student Services Coordinator:
ccs.hdr@monash.edu or 03 9903 0368