SPECIALIST STREAMS IN ECONOMICS DOCTORAL PROGRAM

An advanced program for outstanding scholars

MONASH.EDU/BUSINESS
When you join the Monash Business School community you become part of a bold, open-minded centre of research excellence that is committed to seeking knowledge in order to serve and transform society.

At Monash Business School, our mission is to deliver practical solutions that make an impact on the business world. We are shaping the future of business, venturing beyond traditional boundaries to bring together interdisciplinary thinking and tackle the big issues in economics research. Our researchers are at the forefront of contemporary knowledge and practice. Every project and challenge is underpinned by our unrelenting commitment to research excellence.

We are committed to developing and supporting the research leaders who will shape the future. Are you ready to join us?

WHY A MONASH PHD?

The Monash Doctoral Program gives you an opportunity to challenge the status quo and change things for the better. We are one of Australia’s leading research intensive universities, ranked among the top 100 universities in the world. And we are a member of the Group of Eight – the top tier universities in Australia recognised for their excellence and achievement.

We have a global reputation

Monash Business School is one of only 86 business schools in the world to have been awarded ‘Triple Accreditation’ by three global accrediting bodies: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB); EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS); and the Association of MBAs (AMBA).

We offer generous scholarships and grants

We believe in research excellence and we want to work with, and nurture, the best researchers out there. That is why we offer generous funding support to graduate researchers. From scholarships and bursaries to cover the cost of your program, to help with your living expenses, and travel grants to facilitate international experience, we give you the support you need to focus on your research and professional development, and make the most of opportunities as they arise.

Fostering an environment for success

We want you to have every opportunity to succeed. We provide an environment where new ideas are embraced, where scholarly debate creates new thinking and excellence is the norm.

You will be supported by a minimum of two supervisors throughout your enrolment, both of whom are committed to your success.

Your experience is broadened through our vibrant visitors program. We welcome leading scholars from around the world to Monash Business School each year. During their visits, these scholars share their knowledge with our faculty and students through meetings, seminars and informal discussions.

In the Economics and Policy Research Group, we are committed to collaborative research with both a national and international focus.

Research in the group is involved in the following activities:

- Interdisciplinary research with the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University
- Strong commitment to collaborative research with Monash Business School’s Department of Economics and the Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics
- Participation in national and international conferences, workshops and seminar series
- Expert academic supervision of Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students
- Full support for our staff and doctoral students to actively pursue grants to further their research

Many of our projects are funded by NHMRC and ARC grants, as well as through contract research. We have collaborated with institutions such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and leading universities in Europe and North America.

Find out more about us at: www.monash.edu/business/che
I chose Monash Business School for my PhD because of the Centre for Health Economics’ excellent international reputation. After completing my Masters in economics at Heidelberg University in Germany, I knew I wanted to do further study that explored issues around psychology and neuroscience from an economics perspective. The Centre for Health Economics is known for the attention it gives to its PhD candidates. The feedback, advice and support I am given is regular and abundant. I have three supervisors, Professor Michael Shields, Professor David Johnston and Dr Sonja Kassenboehmer, all of whom have just four PhD students. I have also been given opportunities to collaborate with them on their current work, including a research paper on mental health issues. Doing a PhD at the Centre for Health Economics has also really expanded my career options - whether I decide to pursue a career in academia, government policy or consulting.

WHERE THE RESEARCH HAPPENS, MATTERS

The Specialist Streams in Economics Doctoral Program

Program Structure

Major thesis
The principal component of the Specialist Streams in Economics Doctoral Program is a major thesis of up to 80,000 words, comprised of an original research project. We have strong links with the Department of Economics and Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics within Monash Business School, as well as with the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. Co-supervision is possible.

Coursework
Coursework is designed to widen your knowledge, place the specialised research project within a broader disciplinary context, and enhance your research skills. As part of the program you will be required to undertake the following units:
- Philosophy of research or
- Microeconomics
and then one of the following units:
- Advanced qualitative research
- Advanced quantitative research or
- Advanced health economics

These subjects are designed to ensure you have the theoretical background to harvest the knowledge you need from advanced graduate-level content. In some instances, students may be required to undertake additional subjects, as determined by the Program Director.

Milestones
Progress through the PhD is evaluated at three milestones to help ensure all students complete their studies in the required time. Milestones are an opportunity to receive critical feedback on your project from established academics external to your supervisory team. Milestones also provide a forum for you to acquire presentation skills when presenting your research.

Participation in the Centre for Health Economics activities
Participation in the intellectual and academic life of the Centre is an important aspect of your candidature. In addition to improving your own intellectual capital, it provides you with opportunities to network with and present to supportive staff. To this end, you will meet to discuss your progress with your supervisor fortnightly and attend all Higher Degree by Research seminars. The Centre and the Departments of Economics and Econometrics and Business Statistics also run a number of research seminars throughout the year which you are encouraged to attend.

Available on a full-time basis
Normally completed in 3-4 years
Commences biannually

BEHIND EVERY GREAT SOLUTION, IS A GREAT RESEARCHER

NICOLAU MARTIN BASSOLS
PhD candidate
Research focus: Old age cognitive deterioration

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Dr Sonja Kassenboehmer is a research fellow in the Centre for Health Economics at Monash Business School. She received her doctorate in economics (summa cum laude) from the Ruhr University of Bochum in 2011. She is a Research Fellow at IZA and at the APC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course.

Sonja’s articles can be found in such journals as The Economic Journal, Industrial and Labour Relations Review, Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization, Economics Letters, Economic Record and Education Economics.

Profile

DR SONJA KASSENBOEHMER
Deputy Director of the PhD Program
Research area: Individual wellbeing (wages, wealth, life satisfaction, mental health) in the labour market context and on non-cognitive skills
The main research themes for each of the research groups are provided as a guide for your research proposals.

We conduct research across the entire breadth of the health economics field. However, our primary focus is on the following four broad areas:

- economic evaluation of health programs
- the socioeconomic determinants and dynamics of health and subjective wellbeing
- measuring quality of life and social preferences
- preferences, choice, behaviour and performance in the health system.

We have developed an impressive portfolio of achievements in health economics research. These include:

- Pioneering work on the measurement of social values, including the development of the Assessment of Quality of Life instrument
- Developing and applying research methods for priority setting in healthcare
- Significant contributions to public policy in the areas of hospital funding, health insurance, and health technology assessment
- Playing a major role in the development of policy and practice of economic evaluation of health services through work with the Pharmaceutical Benefits and Medical Services Advisory Committees
- Efficiency and performance measurement in healthcare organisations

Staff within the Centre for Health Economics are active researchers across the disciplines of health economics.

CURRENT PhD STUDENTS

Student | PhD title
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Jessica Arnup | Economics of children’s and adolescents’ time investments, cognitive development and health outcomes
Elaine De Gruyter | Using outcomes-based approaches to support the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases
Jane Fry | Economics of road accidents and fatalities
Peter Ghijben | Economic studies in health technology assessment
Nicola Huxley | Improving decision-making in healthcare through cost-effectiveness analyses
Adam Irving | The economics of the blood supply in Australia
Angela Jackson | National Disability Insurance Scheme: Economic essays on the transition to choice and competition
Jing Jing Li | Analyses of health care funding decisions
Bernice Ma | Developing an outcome metric and evaluating policies for Australians with a disability
Nicolau Martin Bassign | Cognition and health-related cognitive-impairment over economic, financial and medical outcomes
Karina Saxby | Enablers and barriers: the impact of policies on health outcomes and healthcare resource use pattern
Thao Thai | Using discrete choice experiment in evaluating utility value for cardiovascular diseases

MAKE YOUR RESEARCH DREAM A REALITY

Scholarships and Fees
Monash University spends more than $47 million each year on graduate research scholarships. We also offer living and other allowances, travel grants, publication grants, residential scholarships and more. Stipends and other allowances help with living and other costs, such as relocation costs from outside Victoria, including overseas.

The Australian Government’s Research Training Program (RTP) covers course fees for research candidates who are Australian or New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents for the specified duration of their course.

Our tuition scholarships for international students cover the cost of tuition fees, and in some cases include the cost of compulsory Overseas Student Health Cover.

For more information visit: www.monash.edu/business/research/graduate-research-program/scholarships-and-fees

READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT?

Entry Requirements and How to Apply
All applicants must be able to demonstrate a capacity to carry out independent research, have adequate training and the ability to pursue the proposed course of study. The minimum qualifications and English language skills required to be considered for entry into our program are provided at: www.monash.edu/business/research/graduate-research-program/doctor-of-philosophy/how-to-apply

How to Apply
Applying for the Specialist Streams in Economics Doctoral Program through the Centre for Health Economics involves four basic steps.

Step 1
Submit an Expression of Interest online at: www.monash.edu/business/research/graduate-research-program/scholarships-and-fees

Step 2
Preliminary Assessment
Your Expression of Interest will be assessed. A positive outcome will result in an Invitation to Apply. This can take up to four weeks. If you hope to secure a scholarship, it is recommended that you start the process no later than one month prior to scholarship application closing dates.

Step 3
Invitation to Apply
If you meet the conditions of the preliminary assessment process and the Centre has the necessary facilities, resources and supervision for your project, you will be invited to apply for a Monash Business School PhD – this can take up to four weeks. The invitation will direct you to the online application system where you can commence a formal application.

Step 4
Accept your offer.
Further information
www.monash.edu/business/research/graduate-research-program

Centre for Health Economics
Graduate Research Program Director
Professor Anthony Harris
Email: buseco-chehdr.enquiries@monash.edu

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