

PhD Scholarship 2



National Urban Water
Governance Program

 MONASH University

Funded by National Urban Water Governance Program, School of Geography
& Environmental Science

Proposed title

Taking two steps back to move forward: understanding the hydro-social contract underpinning Australian urban water management.

Scholarship value

\$28,000 / year (tax free), plus research and travel allowance. This scholarship does not cover International students fees. Information on these fees can be found at:
<http://www.monash.edu.au/study/coursefinder/course/0020/#details>.

Scholarship tenure

3 years, with a possible 6 month extension. (Note: part-time study is not available)

Social Research Overview

Recent academic research argues that transformative change is required to create water sensitive cities in Australia. However, there remains widespread institutional inertia that stifles the adoption of new processes, designs, technologies, behaviours, values and practices. To help enable the right institutional context in support of creating water sensitive cities, an in-depth understanding of the inherent limitations and key leverage points within the conventional urban water management regime is required. This research project will involve a socio-technical analysis of the urban water management regime in Australia with a particular focus on the socio-cultural, policy and technical hold points. Drawing on social science theories, such as new institutionalism and transitions management, the successful candidate will explore the development of the traditional hydro-social contract and examine how this 'contract' has evolved over the last five decades and identify key patterns, capacities and mechanisms for change.

Student Requirements

Minimum of a first class honours degree or equivalent. Given the interdisciplinary nature of this research project a range of disciplinary backgrounds will be considered such as environmental science, geography, policy, natural resource management, social science, environmental engineering and civil engineering. Prior work experience in the water sector, or similar, is desirable.

Supervisor / Contact

Associate Professor Rebekah Brown
Program Leader – National Urban Water Governance Program
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Application

Expressions of interest should be addressed to Associate Professor Rebekah Brown and submitted both electronically and in hard copy by the 6th March 2009. The application must include: 1) an introductory letter stating why the applicant wants to pursue this social research topic, 2) current CV, 3) copy of academic record, 4) references, and 5) list of any publications. Note: the successful applicant will be subject to Monash University's eligibility requirements, for more information please see <http://www.mrgs.monash.edu.au/>

Postal Address

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