

The University of Notre Dame Australia is a Catholic university with campuses in Fremantle, Broome and Sydney. The Objects of the University are the provision of university education within a context of Catholic faith and values and the provision of an excellent standard of teaching, scholarship and research, training for the professions and the pastoral care of its students.

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**PhD Scholarship – Enhancing resilience after spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury:  
Development and pilot of a program to facilitate inner strength, hope, connectedness and spiritual  
well-being in rehabilitation inpatients.  
(Full-Time, \$30,000 p.a., for Three Years)**

The University of Notre Dame Australia is offering one (tax-free) PhD stipend scholarship, \$30,000 per annum, for up to three years. We are seeking applications from highly motivated candidates interested in pursuing a PhD under the direction and supervision of an expert academic and clinical team based at the Institute for Ethics and Society (IES) and Royal Rehab, which are both located in Sydney.

The IES is a national research institute of the University of Notre Dame, based on the Sydney campus. Informed by the resources of the Catholic intellectual tradition, the IES aims at better understanding how cultivating the virtues can strengthen civil society and support human flourishing. The IES is committed to engaging with key issues in bioethics. Royal Rehab is Australia's leading provider of rehabilitation and disability services, and is highly regarded for specialist expertise in brain and spinal cord injury rehabilitation. The centre is inspired by a commitment to clinical excellence, education and research, and personalised care.

This industry-linked PhD scholarship is jointly funded by the Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) and Royal Rehab. It is available to high achieving domestic students to undertake a doctoral degree.

Applications are sought in the research area of **resilience and traumatic injury rehabilitation**.

Inner strength, connectedness, hope and spiritual well-being are all factors which have been closely associated with resilience after traumatic injury, yet there is no known program which seeks to enhance the resilience of rehabilitation inpatients. This study seeks to explore these factors with rehabilitation inpatients, and address ways that these factors could be better facilitated to enhance resilience among individuals with spinal cord injury or traumatic brain injury. This project would provide important information on how best to improve the rehabilitation journey for inpatients as they prepare to return to the community. It would also provide a valuable intervention tool for rehabilitation healthcare professionals.

Applicants must hold a relevant Honours (1 or 2A) or Master's by Research degree in a relevant healthcare field, or be able to demonstrate equivalent relevant research experience. The applicants must have clinical experience as a healthcare practitioner (for example but not limited to, Social Worker, Registered Nurse, Psychologist, Occupational Therapist) and be accredited to work in Australian hospitals. Communication, team work and written skills with strong organisational ability within a clinical setting are essential.

To apply please complete sections 1-4 (all sections), 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 7 and 8 of the [Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Application Form](#) and provide necessary supporting documentation (e.g. certified transcripts). Applicants must also include with their application a one page statement outlining why they want to undertake a PhD in enhancing resilience after spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury at Notre Dame and how this opportunity aligns with their own research interests. Scholarship applications close on 14 May 2021 and should be submitted to Dr Kate Jones at [kate.jones1@nd.edu.au](mailto:kate.jones1@nd.edu.au).

For enquiries related to the research topic, please contact Kate Jones, [kate.jones1@nd.edu.au](mailto:kate.jones1@nd.edu.au).

For process-related enquiries, please contact the Research Office, [sydney.research@nd.edu.au](mailto:sydney.research@nd.edu.au)