

# Call for Applications

## PhD Scholarships with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women



Applications are invited from suitably qualified scholars for a PhD scholarship to undertake a higher degree by research, funded by the Australian Research Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW). The PhD candidates will be located in the Department of Social Work in the Melbourne School of Health Sciences under the primary supervision of either Honorary Professor Cathy Humphreys or Professor Sarah Wendt, and other suitable supervisors as agreed.

Two PhD Scholarships are available.

**Applications close Monday 14th October, 2024.**

The Australia Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEVAW) is the world's first Centre to tackle the full range of forms of violence against women in Australia and the Indo-Pacific region. CEVAW aims to transform our understanding of the problem by examining the structural drivers that cause and compound violence against women (VAW), and pioneering new, evidence-based approaches to inform trajectory-altering practice and policy. CEVAW will generate fundamental knowledge on the causes of violence, the contexts in which it occurs, and the most effective and efficient responses. This interdisciplinary research will be data-driven, Indigenous-centred and co-designed with partners. CEVAW brings together over 40 world-leading experts to develop scalable approaches to eliminate violence against women across the legal, security, economic, health, and political systems of Australia and the region. Headquartered at Monash University, CEVAW comprises 14 chief investigators at seven Australian institutions, 15 partner investigators worldwide, 33 partner organisations and over 100 HDR students and postdoctoral fellows. By building strategic and strong partnerships with Australian and international research institutions and partner organisations, CEVAW will translate research into innovative tools and strengthened capacity to drive the elimination of violence against women. With almost \$50M investment from the ARC and contributing organisations, CEVAW is poised to make a significant, global impact.

At CEVAW, we are committed to fostering an inclusive, safe and supportive environment free from discrimination and marginalisation that upholds the principles of respect, equity, and inclusion. We are committed to research that is anti-colonial and a policy of zero tolerance of racism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny and all forms of bullying and harassment. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply for all positions. Our goal is to achieve at least 20% Indigenous higher degree by research (HDR) students across CEVAW. We are passionate about building future leaders in the multidisciplinary gender-based violence field. All of our early career researchers and HDR students will take part in a comprehensive

research and training program centring Indigenous approaches and incorporating excellent supervision and professional development.

The PhD candidates will undertake research in the Department of Social Work in CEVAW in one of two CEVAW research streams. One research stream (led by Professor Sarah Wendt) will examine sexual, domestic, and family violence primarily in homes and neighbourhoods across time to identify how communities can become crucial actors in preventing and/or reducing VAW. The preferred focus of the PhD candidature research is on religion and faith-based organisations as an example of civil society influencing communities, families, and service provision. If you have an idea for a PhD research project that involves another aspect of the role of civil society in preventing and/or reducing VAW, please feel free to contact and discuss with Professor Wendt.

The second research stream (led by Honorary Professor Cathy Humphreys) will examine the effectiveness and range of crisis and recovery responses for women and their children living with and leaving DFV or other types of VAW. It is desirable, but not essential that the focus will be on the response from non-specialist services and informal responses to understand their role in creating safety and accountability. The intersection and response of drug and alcohol services is a particular, but not exclusive area of interest

Examples of research areas include, but are not limited to:

- Understanding the role of civil society and the religious context to VAW.
- The role of faith-based organizations in preventing and responding to VAW.
- Understanding how specialist and non-specialist, Aboriginal community-controlled organizations, domestic and family violence (DFV) and sexual assault services recognize faith and spirituality, in supporting victim/survivors and/or perpetrators of violence and abuse.
- The full range of ways in which faith-based organizations are involved in and shape, DFV service delivery.
- Practitioner perspectives on / experiences of the role of faith in responding to DFV.
- The role of non-specialist services in responding to DFV.
- The experiences of children and adult victim survivors of the non-specialist service responses to DFV.
- Understanding the impacts of colonization, religion, and associated violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (joint supervision with an Indigenous supervisor would be arranged).
- Understanding the intersection of DFV with drug and alcohol and the service system response

We are seeking PhD proposals that meet the following criteria:

- Proposals should identify how they connect to the aims of CEVAW;
- Proposal should explain how the project centres victim-survivor and Indigenous knowledges and understands the socio-structural drivers associated with the violent conduct of those who use violence; and
- Proposals should demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach.

## **Eligibility**

Applicants must be eligible for acceptance by the University of Melbourne into a PhD program and the scholarship is conditional upon acceptance into the PhD program. As this Scholarship is hosted by the Department of Social Work, the applicants will need to meet the entry requirements of the department's PhD program. Applicants may have a background in social work, sociology, gender studies or related fields.

See the Department of Social Work's [Graduate Researcher webpage](#) and check the webpage at <https://mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/research/research-training> for information about the academic entry standard and application process prior to application.

**The scholarship benefits include:**

- Stipend of \$37,000 per annum pro rata for 3.5 years, indexed annually
- Allowances as per the [Graduate Research Scholarship Terms & Conditions](#)
- Small relocation grant to be negotiated

As the candidates will be based in the Department of Social Work, they will additionally have access to up to \$2,500 in [research support funds](#) over the course of their candidature, and will be included in the department's graduate researcher program. Additionally, as part of their candidature the candidates will be involved in a range of CEVAW initiatives.

**Applications**

Applicants should contact Professor Sarah Wendt [sarah.wendt@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sarah.wendt@unimelb.edu.au) or Honorary Professor Cathy Humphreys [cathy.humphreys@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:cathy.humphreys@unimelb.edu.au) to discuss their interest and eligibility.

Applicants should submit the following documents to [shs-research@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:shs-research@unimelb.edu.au) by Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2024, noting in their email that they have contacted Professor Sarah Wendt or Honorary Professor Cathy Humphreys:

- Full CV (including publications, if relevant);
- All prior undergraduate and graduate academic transcripts detailing subjects and grades, completion statement and final WAM/GPA where applicable, and the legend or grading scale for all transcripts;
- Information on prior research completed (e.g. Honours thesis, Masters thesis); and,
- A Research Proposal of two to three pages (maximum); this may be at the general 'ideas' stage, or an expression of interest in an identified area of research set out above.
- International students should also send in copies of any approved English language tests completed within the last 2 years. All students are required to meet the English language requirements as listed at <https://study.unimelb.edu.au/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/graduate-english-language-requirements> before they can enrol.
- Details of two referees.

If shortlisted, applicants will be asked to provide the following before **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**.

- A more substantial research proposal (1,500 to 2,000 words), or a writing sample of a substantial assessed research paper or thesis by the applicant, as agreed.

All shortlisted candidates get pre-assessed without a reference check. A reference check is completed when the preferred candidate is asked to officially apply.

### Key Dates

| Date 2024                                                                                                  | Action                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> August                                                                            | PhD Application submissions open                                                                           |
| Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> October                                                                           | Application submission closes                                                                              |
| Monday, 28 <sup>th</sup> October                                                                           | Shortlisted applicants advised                                                                             |
| Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November                                                                           | Shortlisted applicants provide a 1,500 - 2,000-word research proposal or writing sample                    |
| Applications submitted to the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences for reviews and decisions | Preferred candidates notified and submit University of Melbourne Graduate Research Application Form online |

### Queries

Please direct any questions to Professor Sarah Wendt at [sarah.wendt@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sarah.wendt@unimelb.edu.au) or Honorary Professor Cathy Humphreys [cathy.humphreys@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:cathy.humphreys@unimelb.edu.au).