

## **PhD Opportunity through a Three-Year Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project Grant**

A PhD scholarship is currently available at the School of Nursing and Social Work at The University of Melbourne.

The PhD student will be appointed to work on a three-year Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project Grant. This project includes a supervisory team with expertise in organisational communication, risk management, and safety and quality, which will provide enormous support for the PhD student. The study entitled: Examining healthcare professionals' communication across the surgical pathway to improve patient safety, focuses on how clinicians communicate with each other and with patients following patient admission for a surgical procedure in hospital.

The PhD student will use a variety of data collection methods including video and audiotaping communication processes, surveying, individual interviews and focus groups. Working with Eastern Health as the partner organisation, the study will lead to new knowledge about the nature and effect of communication processes, and how health professionals go about bridging gaps in communication across the surgical pathway. The outcome of this study will be: the development of strategies for improved communication in relation to surgical episodes, with a focus on reducing hospital-based injury and serious, surgical adverse events.

Essential Criteria: Honours degree or Master's degree with a thesis component in a relevant discipline. Relevant disciplines include: medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physiotherapy, psychology, medical sociology, and public health or other health-related areas. The applicant must be an Australian citizen or have permanent residence in Australia.

Desirable Criteria: Knowledge of the health care sector. Applicants will ideally have previous clinical experience and research experience in some of the data collection methods to be used.

Applications should be directed to: Associate Professor Elizabeth Manias, School of Nursing, The University of Melbourne, Level 5, 234 Queensberry Street Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia. The application should include certified copies of academic transcripts, curriculum vitae, and contact details of three referees.

The PhD stipend rate is \$25,627 p.a. for three years. Eastern Health will also provide additional cash support of \$18,000 to facilitate the conduct of the study.

Enquiries and further information: Associate Professor Elizabeth Manias + 61 (03) 8344 9463 or e-mail [emanias@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:emanias@unimelb.edu.au).