



Early Start PhD Scholarship

The University of Wollongong (UOW) is a research-intensive university with a vision of being a leader in ideas and solutions, a community of campuses and partners where discovery, learning and technology connect to transform people and the world we live in. Early Start Research is part of UOW's \$44 million Early Start initiative that unites cutting-edge research with higher education programs and community engagement. Early Start is one of UOW's Research strengths and home to more than 100 academics and research students undertaking interdisciplinary research focusing on children's learning, development, health and well-being. Our purpose is to help children flourish and realise their potential, be active learners, and become engaged members of our society. Early Start also has a specific focus on vulnerable children in regional and remote areas.

As a hands-on creative learning venue, the Early Start Discovery Space has been specifically designed for children from birth to 10 years and their accompanying families, carers, educators and teachers.

A PhD Scholarship is available for an innovative project on the development of children's learning and cognition as a result of guided and unguided play-based activities in the Early Start Discovery Space.

As a PhD Scholar you will play a central role in the longitudinal study into the effectiveness of the Discovery Space for the development of children's learning and cognition, with a specific focus on creativity, collaboration, confidence, can do attitude, and curiosity. One major activity involves the design of instructional tools that can guide children in their play-based learning activities in the Discovery Space. The effectiveness of some of these tools will be evaluated as part of the longitudinal study. Others will be investigated under more controlled conditions. The main goal of the project is to determine the longer-term effectiveness of the Discovery Space for children's learning, and think about ways to further improve its effectiveness.

Eligibility

Open to Australian and International applicants who meet UOW PhD entry requirements (Hons I or Masters) in the following fields: education (eg specific domains such as language and literacy, curriculum, policy, technology), health, psychology, child development, or language and linguistics.

Stipend

- **Scholarship stipend is \$27,596 per annum for 3 years (tax-free and indexed annually)**
- **An additional allowance is available to cover project-related costs such as travel**

Dates

- **Closing date: 12 December 2018**
- **Commencement date: Autumn Session 2019 (Must commence by 30 March 2019).**

Inquiries

Please direct all inquiries to Professor Tony Okely: tokely@uow.edu.au or Professor Fred Paas: fred_paas@uow.edu.au.

How to apply

- **All potential candidates should send their CVs (including academic transcript) and a summary of their research background and highlights (one-page maximum) to Cynthia Gao (cygao@uow.edu.au) by the closing date of 12 December 2018.**

