

# NDARC Higher Degree Research (HDR) Information Session

Dr Natasa Gisev & A/Prof Amy Peacock  
24<sup>th</sup> October 2022



UNSW  
NDARC  
National  
Drug & Alcohol  
Research Centre

# Overview

1. Background to NDARC and research areas
2. NDARC HDR Program
3. NDARC HDR Scholarships
4. Information and resources
5. Q&A

# Overview of NDARC

- National research centre in operation since 1987
- Australia's leading research group in the alcohol and other drugs sector
- Multi-disciplinary with national and international collaborators
- Sits within the Faculty of Medicine & Health, UNSW Sydney
- Funded by:
  - Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
  - UNSW Sydney

# NDARC's mission

Generate evidence-based, multidisciplinary research that positively impacts strategies to address alcohol and other drug use and related harms

# NDARC Core Research Areas

- Prevention and early intervention
- Clinical research
- Mental and physical comorbidities
- Epidemiology of drug and alcohol use and harms
- Justice health and drug policy
- Indigenous health and wellbeing
- Health economics and biostatistics
- Families and communities

# NDARC Types of Research

- Surveillance of trends in use, markets and outcomes of substance use
- Systematic reviews of prevalence of use, risks of use, treatment and interventions
- Clinical trials of treatments and interventions
- Large cohort studies, including data linkage
- Evaluations of policy, practice, and services
- Economic analyses
- Qualitative research
- Other novel approaches (e.g., online monitoring)

# NDARC HDR Program



**UNSW**  
**NDARC**  
National  
Drug & Alcohol  
Research Centre

# NDARC HDR Program

- Administered through the School of Population Health, Faculty of Medicine & Health, UNSW Sydney
- **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** – research program that demonstrates a significant and original contribution to knowledge in the field of study [3-4 years full-time]
- **Masters by Research (MRes)** – as per PhD but shorter program and work is smaller in scope [1.5-2 years full-time]
- **Master of Philosophy (MPhil)** – coursework + research thesis, provides a pathway to PhD program [1.5-2 years full-time]



# UNSW PhD Admission

## **Degree requirements for entry into PhD:**

- An appropriate UNSW Bachelor degree with upper second-class Honours; or
- Completed Masters by Research from UNSW; or
- An equivalent qualification from a tertiary institution

## **Minimum requirement for a UNSW PhD Scholarship:**

- A four-year Bachelor's degree with Honours Class I from an Australian institution or equivalent research qualification experience. Qualification must be in a field relevant to the proposed area of research.

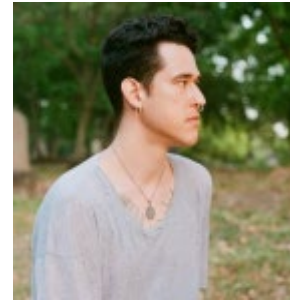
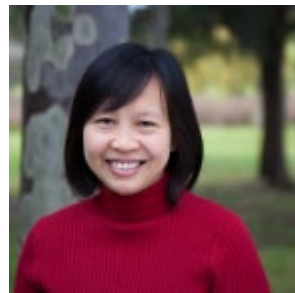
# NDARC HDR Program

1. 3-4 year drug and alcohol research project
2. NDARC HDR Training and Development Program
3. UNSW HDR Resources and Training Opportunities
4. Access to other NDARC, Faculty and UNSW resources
5. Option for paid casual or part-time employment on NDARC projects

# NDARC HDR Training & Development Program

- Peer-led program that offers tailored and bespoke seminars and training sessions to support HDR candidates
- HDR Group offers daily co-working writing sessions, monthly meetings and training sessions
- Examples of topics covered:
  - Thesis writing
  - Literature reviews and database searches
  - Statistical analysis
  - Career planning
  - Presentation skills

# Find a supervisor



# Find a project

- **Propose own or select from current project opportunities:**
  - Understanding and preventing substance-related deaths in Australia
  - Awareness of, and responses to, drug alerts about higher-risk substances
  - Quantifying pharmaceutical misuse and harms among older adults
  - Quantifying risks of methamphetamine dependence & interventions to reduce harm
  - Perspectives of treatment and support for people who are drug dependent and their families

# Find a project

- **Propose own or select from current project opportunities:**
  - Investigating the risk of harm from prescription opioids using linked data
  - Text-message support for smoking cessation about low-socioeconomic status smokers
  - Use and safety of prescription drugs of dependence during pregnancy
  - Cost-benefits of Aboriginal residential rehabilitation for substance use treatment
  - Evaluating the impact of drug checking (“pill testing”) services in Australia

# Hear from Current PhD Candidates



**UNSW**  
**NDARC**  
National  
Drug & Alcohol  
Research Centre

# Hear from Current PhD Candidates

Ms Christel Macdonald



Ms Daisy Gibbs





# NDARC HDR Scholarships



**UNSW**  
**NDARC**  
National  
Drug & Alcohol  
Research Centre

# Domestic Research Scholarships

- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Postgraduate Scholarship
- Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship
- University Postgraduate Award (UPA)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Training Program Scholarships

# NDARC HDR Scholarships

- Competitive scholarship stipend and support package:
  - Stipend: \$35,000 per annum, tax-exempt
  - \$10,000 for professional development activities
  - \$5,000 for associated research costs
- PhD scholarships are for three years (6-month extension possible)
- MRes and MPhil scholarships are for two years

# NDARC HDR Scholarship Eligibility

- Meet UNSW requirements for enrolment in HDR Program
- Meet residency and visa requirements
- Have applied or are in the process of applying for an externally-funded HDR scholarship

# NDARC Scholarship Application Process

1. Assess eligibility to enrol in a UNSW HDR Program
2. Identify a suitable supervisor
3. Identify or propose a research topic area of interest
4. Prepare application form, provide supporting documents, inc. evidence of externally-funded HDR Scholarship application
5. Short-listed applicants are invited for an interview

# NDARC Scholarship Application Form

- Contact information
- Education and qualifications
- Employment history
- Publications and presentations
- Research proposal
- Proposed supervisor
- Referees (x2)

# HDR Research Proposal

3-5 pages outlining your proposed area of study:

1. Project title
2. Background/rationale
3. Aims
4. Proposed research design
5. Anticipated outcomes/significance
6. Timeframe
7. References

# NDARC Scholarship Application Deadlines

- **Applications close:** Midnight, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November
- **Interviews:** Applicants must be available for interview during the week of November 21-25, 2022
- **Program start:** Applicants can commence in any 2023 term of UNSW Sydney's HDR academic calendar



# Information and Resources



**UNSW**  
**NDARC**  
National  
Drug & Alcohol  
Research Centre

# Useful Links

- **UNSW HDR Enrolment Information:**

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/medicine-health/research-impact/postgraduate-research/become-postgraduate-research-candidate>

- **NDARC HDR Program:**

<https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/program/higher-degree-research>

- **NDARC HDR Scholarships:**

<https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/content/scholarships-ndarc>

# For More Information and to Apply

Email us:

[ndarc.hdr@unsw.edu.au](mailto:ndarc.hdr@unsw.edu.au)



# Q&A



**UNSW**  
**NDARC**  
National  
Drug & Alcohol  
Research Centre