

# ONE BASIN CRC PhD program

**Are you looking at developing world-leading skills in helping communities tackle climate change, capitalise on the digital transformation and accelerate rural innovation? Are you interested in receiving training from internationally renowned experts, whilst working with industry partners in the iconic Murray-Darling Basin on real-world problems?**

The One Basin Cooperative Research Centre (One Basin CRC) offers attractive PhD packages in a broad range of disciplinary fields and across multiple universities in Australia (Australian National University, Charles Sturt University, Flinders University, The University of Adelaide, The University of Melbourne, The University of Sydney). Our PhD graduates will be the future leaders in basin research and application. Our One Basin PhD program provides unprecedented leadership development opportunities, extensive industry networking, and the chance to establish a deep understanding of your chosen field. Key features of the One Basin CRC PhD Program are:

- A 3.5 year scholarship with the option of a 6 month-funded internship with an industry partner or equivalent part-time employment.
- A flexible funding package including a stipend as much as \$51,300 pa\* and generous travel and operational costs, with potential additional income from working part-time with industry partners and further scholarship funding.
- The PhD program seeks to achieve gender balance and attract candidates from all walks of life, with Australians of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander heritage particularly encouraged to apply.
- Opportunities for travel (including the possibility of international conferences), development and engagement with a strong research network that is being developed through the 10-year CRC.
- Each candidate will spend the majority of their time in one of the following research hubs: Loxton (South Australia), Mildura (Victoria), Griffith (NSW) and Goondiwindi (Queensland) with associated node in Narrabri (NSW).

**Our PhD program will give you the professional skills and networks to accelerate your career in research or practice across the water, agriculture or environmental sectors.**

*\* This is dependent on the host university policies, other available co-funding, and candidature experience and background. Candidates will receive a minimum stipend of \$35,000 pa and a further minimum \$20,500 (total) in operational funding. The exact allocation of the funding package between the stipend and support activities (such as conferences, travel to and from regional hubs) will be agreed to by the host university, PhD student and the 1BCRC. Applicants must be intending to apply for, and be highly competitive for, a Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend (or an equivalent scholarship). The student will enter the PhD program in 2024 and enrol on a full-time basis.*

A horizontal banner with a green-to-blue gradient background. On the left, there is a small inset image of a river landscape. The text "Apply via: [onebasin.com.au/phd-programs](https://onebasin.com.au/phd-programs)" is centered in white text.

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**PhD project ID:** 1BPhD23-03

**Date advertised:** 8 September 2023

**PhD project title:**

**How can water assessment tools be inclusive of First Nations' values and knowledge?**

**Description of the topic of PhD project:**

Current water resources management in Australia tends to be biased towards agricultural and market-based uses as well as 'western' value and knowledge systems. In a similar way, water-related assessments and analytical tools tend to be more disciplinary focused with preference towards values and indicators that are tangible and easily quantified. This bias in water assessment and management has contributed to the undervaluing or neglect of the cultural dimensions of water, especially with respect to First Nations' peoples and their relationship with water. While there has been increased acknowledgement of the importance of considering First Nations' perspectives in water management, there seems to be a lack of guidance on how to best incorporate their values and knowledge in water assessment tools.

This research will explore ways that water assessment tools can be more inclusive of First Nations' values and knowledge. This will involve an examination of how water-related problems are framed differently by the different cultures, and how water assessment tools can be transformed to capture different ways of seeing and knowing.

The PhD candidate will work with an interdisciplinary cross-university team with extensive experience in working with First Nations and tools and processes for water resource management.

**Primary university supervisor(s):**

Dr Serena Hamilton (Australian National University)

**Co-supervisors:**

Dr Peta Jeffries (Charles Sturt University), Dr Jason Alexandra (ANU)

**Requisite qualifications and experience:**

Candidates must have a qualification equivalent to an Australian H1 Honours degree (a prior research thesis that was at least six months of full time credit and received an excellent mark, or a first author publication in a peer-reviewed international journal). Candidates with Masters or honours degrees in the following disciplines, or with equivalent research or work experience will be favourably considered: *Indigenous studies, water resources management, environmental science, interdisciplinary science, social science, environmental management and planning, human geography, and/or environmental history.*

To determine your eligibility for studying at The Australian National University see:

<https://www.anu.edu.au/study/related-information/postgraduate-research-students>

**1BCRC industry partner(s) potentially involved:**

Western Murray Land Improvement Group (WMLIG) and Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI)