Deeble Institute Summer Research Scholarships 2015

Information sheet

Scope
The Deeble Institute is offering six-week scholarships for postgraduate tertiary students in 2015. The scholarship is based in Canberra and is designed to support talented students to produce an Issues Brief on an important national health services or health policy topic. The Issues Brief will need to be on a topic of mutual interest to the Scholar and to the Deeble Institute. Applicants are asked to briefly outline topics of interest in their applications.

The research undertaken to produce the Issues Brief may directly relate to the applicant’s existing academic research, or the applicant may propose a new area of research.

Purpose
The purpose of the Summer Research Scholarship program is to provide post-graduate students with an opportunity to work in a knowledge exchange organisation so that they gain a better understanding of how to make academic research relevant to policymakers and practitioners. The program also provides an opportunity for scholars to experience what it is like to work in a peak national health body and to establish connections with policymakers and practitioners working in their field of research.

Who can apply?
The Summer Scholarship program is open to tertiary students who have successfully completed at least one year of study for a postgraduate degree at a university that is preferably a member of the Deeble Institute.

Why apply?
The successful applicant will receive:

• an honorarium of $1,800 payable as a one-off amount at the conclusion of the six-week placement, subject to completion of expected outcomes (described below)
• the opportunity to gain training and work experience in a health policy knowledge translation organisation
• the opportunity to participate in the broader work of the AHHA and Deeble Institute, which may include meetings with senior policymakers, health service providers and academics, visits to government departments, and policy Think Tanks
• support from a mentor who will provide advice during the research project
• a fully-equipped work-station within the AHHA office in Canberra.

Please note: The Deeble Institute is not able to provide any assistance (financial or otherwise) with travel or accommodation in relation to the Scholarship, including the interview process.

Timing
The Summer Research Scholarship will be taken up in the summer academic break following granting of the award, starting from 11 January 2015. The Summer Scholars are expected to be based in the AHHA national office for six weeks, and must complete their projects within that period. Alternative arrangements to work from your home University will be considered.

Expected outcomes
The Summer Scholars are expected to write an Issues Brief (no more than 5,000 words) suitable for online publication by the Deeble Institute. The format of the Issue Brief should be finalised in consultation with Deeble Institute and AHHA staff, however, it must:

• clearly outline the policy issue under consideration
• provide a thorough overview of the background to the policy issue and/or overview of the policy context
• outline some policy options/ directions/initiatives
• be objective (non-partisan), easy to read, and free of jargon.

The Summer Scholars are required to acknowledge the support of the Deeble Institute in any subsequent publications or in other material resulting from the research. Scholars who do not complete the mandatory paper within the prescribed time, or have written a paper that is not deemed suitable for publication may, at the discretion of the Deeble Institute, not be eligible for the honorarium.

Preparing your application
Applications must include the following:

• Scholarship application cover sheet (template attached)
• academic transcripts for undergraduate and postgraduate study (a current, signed certified copy)
• curriculum vitae containing details of study and work experience, other research awards previously held, and a list of published and unpublished works
• research proposal (1,000-word limit) including an outline of the proposed research topic, anticipated outcomes of the proposed research, intended audience/s, and a brief bibliography. The candidate should include a brief discussion on how he or she will benefit from use of the Deeble Institute’s facilities.
• one academic referee report (template attached).

Selection criteria

1. Quality of the research proposal and relevance of the topic to the Deeble Institute.
2. Strong research skills.
3. Excellent written communication skills.
4. Ability to work within set guidelines and deadlines.
5. Capacity to work effectively within a professional research environment.

Selection process

Applications for the 2016 Scholarship will close at 5PM AEDT on 15 November 2015. Applicants will be assessed by a Scholarship Selection Panel, and short-listed applicants will be invited to an interview (face-to-face or via videoconference if interstate). The successful applicant will be notified in November 2015.

Supervision

The Summer Scholars will be supervised on a day-to-day basis by the Director of the Deeble Institute and/or the AHHA’s Chief Executive. They will receive guidance and advice from a mentor.

Relationship between Summer Scholar and the AHHA

The relationship between the Summer Scholar and AHHA will not be one of employer and employee and no employee benefits will arise for the Summer Scholar.

Responsibilities of the Summer Scholar

Summer Scholars are required to adhere to the policies and procedures of the AHHA and to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Summer Scholars will be asked to sign an agreement to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities, including the terms of the AHHA Internet and Email Policy; and to abide by any arrangements in place for access to the AHHA office.

It should be noted that the AHHA is unable to provide workers’ compensation insurance for summer scholars. Potential summer scholars should ensure that they are covered by their institution’s insurance policy for the time that they spend at the AHHA.
About the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) is the independent peak membership body and advocate for the Australian healthcare system and a national voice for universally accessible, high quality healthcare in Australia. The AHHA is uniquely positioned to facilitate collaboration between clinicians, academics, policy makers, administrators and politicians. Its members include:

- Queensland Health
- Tasmanian Health & Human Services
- Northern Territory health
- ACT Health
- Health services in other states
- Medicare Locals
- Associates, individuals and students

Its key activities include:

- Maintaining a highly visible policy development program utilising the diverse expertise of members
- Promoting and advancing the implementation of innovative policies which are accepted and well-resourced by governments
- Advocating for and representing members on matters of interest or concern to them
- Maintaining international and national networks of people working in healthcare organisations, creating a stimulating environment for learning through analysis, review, sharing and development of health policy and practice
- Publishing relevant and current information on health industry research, innovations, policies, news and events
- Convening stimulating events (Conferences, Policy Think Tanks, Roundtables, Seminars)
- Providing, through partnerships, exclusive training programs for health service professionals
- Operating a consultancy business to support the ongoing provision of high quality membership products and services
- Maintaining a committed and loyal membership.

About the Deeble Institute
The Institute is an initiative of the AHHA, the independent, national membership body and advocate for the Australian public and not-for-profit healthcare systems. At the Institute, we believe that the best health policies are made when policymakers, practitioners and researchers work together. Our main aim is to build and strengthen the connections between these people and organisations. We do that by undertaking collaborative academic research, doing research commissioned by policy departments and conducting high-quality, independent research synthesis.

The Institute is based within the national office of the AHHA in Deakin, Canberra. It was established in November 2011 and is funded through its membership, which includes Founding Partners, Partners and Institutional/Academic members.

Where to send your application

Your completed application can be forwarded via e-mail to: skillion@ahha.asn.au

Further information

For further information, please contact:

Susan Killion  
Director, Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research  
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association  
E: skillion@ahha.asn.au  
T: 02 6162 0780

HESTA is proud to sponsor the Summer Research Scholarship Program.
Deeble Institute Summer Research Scholarships 2016
Application Form

Name: .............................................................................................................. Preferred title: .................................................................

Mailing address: .................................................................................................................................

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Phone number(s): ....................................................... (Daytime)
................................................................................................................................. (Mobile)

Email address: .................................................................................................................................

Degree for which you are currently studying and field of study: .................................................................

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Name of institution: .................................................................................................................................

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When did you commence this degree? .......................................................................................................... 

When do you expect to complete this degree? ..................................................................................................

Brief outline of research experience: ...........................................................................................................

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Academic qualifications held (include name of institution and year): ....................................................................

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How did you learn about the Summer Research Scholarship Program? ....................................................................

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Academic transcript

Please attach a current, signed certified copy of your academic transcripts for undergraduate and postgraduate study.

Curriculum vitae

The curriculum vitae should include details of any previous employment, qualifications, other research awards previously held, and a list of published and unpublished work.

Research proposal

The Summer Research Scholar may work on a project that directly relates to the applicant’s existing academic research, or the applicant may propose a new research project. Please attach your research proposal (1,000-word limit) including:

- an outline of the proposed research topic
- how this research project relates to the work of the Deeble Institute
- how the candidate would benefit from being located at the Deeble Institute and AHHA
- anticipated outcomes of the proposed research
- intended audience/s, and
- a brief bibliography.

Referee report

Please provide details of one professional/academic referee. Please also attach a written report from your nominated referee.

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Further information

For further information, please contact:

Susan Killion
Director Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
E: skillion@ahha.asn.au
T: 02 6162 0780
Deeble Institute Summer Research Scholarship 2016
Referee report

Applicant’s name: ............................................................................................................................

Referee’s details

Your name: ....................................................................................................................................

Preferred title: ................................................................................................................................

Institution/organisation: .............................................................................................................

......................................................................................................................................................

Relationship to applicant: ...........................................................................................................

Phone number(s): ............................................. (Daytime) .................................................... (Mobile)

Email address: ..............................................................................................................................

Please provide statements to support the above-named applicant for the Deeble Institute Summer Research Scholarship 2015. In particular, you may wish to address the selection criteria as follows:

- Quality of the research proposal and relevance of topic to national health policy.
- Strong research skills.
- Excellent written communication skills.
- Ability to work within set guidelines and deadlines.
- Capacity to work effectively within a professional research environment.

Additional comments may be used to emphasise any strengths and weaknesses. In some cases the Scholarship Selection Panel may contact you for further discussion and clarification of your comments. Please note that the applicant will have access to the comments made.

Referee reports need to be submitted by 5PM AEDT on 19 October 2015.
An email trail may be substituted for signatures.

Please return your report to the applicant to forward to the Deeble Institute. Alternatively, you may email a scanned signed copy of your report (copied to the applicant) to skillion@ahha.asn.au.