

PhD Scholarship in Sharing Cities (Urban Geography)

School of Geography and Sustainable Communities

Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research

The University of Wollongong

The University of Wollongong is currently offering a PhD scholarship in Urban Geography for a student to work on the topic of Sharing Cities.

The project will be supervised by Prof Pauline McGuirk in the School of Geography and Sustainable Communities and AUSCER (the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research).

Sharing Cities

Cities are increasingly said to be on the cusp of transition towards becoming ‘sharing cities’, underpinned by share economies, collaborative forms of social provisioning and ‘commoning’ of urban resources and assets. Emergent and increasingly pervasive smart technologies are fuelling tech-enabled sharing initiatives with a vast variety of forms and motivations. Initiatives include: ride-sharing, tool libraries, meal-sharing; energy sharing, creative commons, seed libraries, and accommodation sharing.

Meanwhile understanding cities as sharing or shareable cities is increasingly influencing urban governments who are seeking to harness, support and regulate the dynamics of share initiatives towards a variety of agenda as new possibilities emerge and new interests take shape. The ‘sharing city’ appears to have capabilities to be: a source of social innovation; a route to sustainable urban futures wherein smart technology is linked to justice, solidarity and sustainability; a potent economic development strategy and a means of furthering cities’ global competitiveness as ‘smart cities’. Whatever the case, the sharing city, its geographies, practices and politics represent vibrant dimensions of urban change and potentially potent vectors of urban transition.

Many aspects of the sharing city demand investigation including: its rationalities; the mechanisms and technologies through which the assets of the city are made shareable; how it is being governed, including through its absorption into urban policy frameworks, and the implications for urban geographies and urban politics.

Applicants are required to write a short proposal outlining a research project on the broad topic of the Sharing City, summarising project’s aims, methods and potential contribution to academic literature/policy debates. A wide variety of projects will be considered.

Nationality

Both domestic and international students are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Value

The successful candidate will receive a stipend of \$26,288 (2016 rate) per year which will be indexed annually for the duration of the award. The duration of the award shall be for three years with a maximum possible extension of up to six months (assessed on a case by case basis).

Eligibility

To be eligible, a student must have completed a Bachelor Degree in human geography or a related discipline with First Class Honours, or be regarded by UOW as having an equivalent level of attainment; and intend on undertaking a full time higher degree by research by March 2017.

How to apply

Applicants should submit:

1. A cover letter; a short proposal outlining the research project, a CV and relevant academic transcripts to Professor Pauline McGuirk, email pmcguirk@uow.edu.au
2. A full Higher Degree Research (HDR) admission application, available at <https://www.uow.edu.au/apply/index.html>

Deadline for applications: **Friday, 5th August 2016**

For inquiries in the first instance, please contact Prof Pauline McGuirk, email: pmcguirk@uow.edu.au Phone: +61 2 4221 3124.