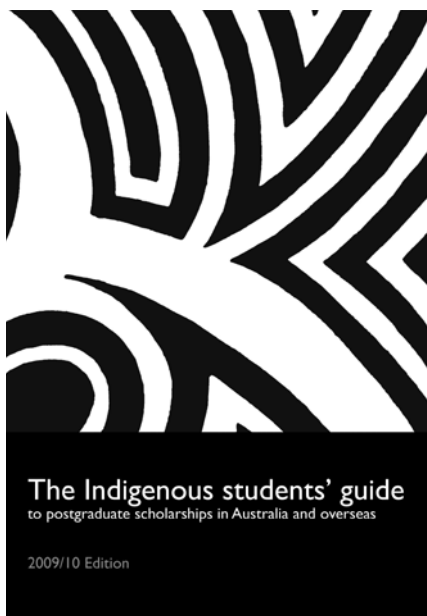


Groundbreaking Indigenous post-graduate scholarship handbook released



The Aurora Project, which is supported by the Castan Centre, recently launched *The Indigenous students' guide to postgraduate scholarship in Australia and overseas*, a guide to over 120 scholarships for Indigenous students worldwide. This comprehensive handbook, printed in conjunction with the Charlie Perkins Trust for Children & Students, sets the many scholarship opportunities out in a logical and comprehensible manner for the first time. The handbook is the result of an enormous research effort by Aurora staff and was heralded by the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, who said "the Guide clearly reflects the great effort made by a number of organisations, institutions and foundations around Australia in supporting the education of Indigenous Australians".

The guide covers scholarships across a range of disciplines including law, IT, the arts, engineering and education. The handbook also contains stories from Indigenous students who have completed postgraduate study, providing helpful advice, tips and encouragement to those

thinking of following in their footsteps. It is anticipated that this handbook will increase knowledge of the numerous scholarships available to Indigenous students, increasing their access to postgraduate study opportunities. The importance of this concept was underlined by University of Tasmania academic, Dr Maggie Walter, who wrote in the handbook that "to claim our place and our space on the stage of Australian scholarship, we need many more Indigenous scholars committing to PhD study. Scholarship is a form of activism and the voices of scholarship representing us, our culture, our communities, our perspectives and our interests – must be ours."

Copies of the guide are available from www.auraproject.com.au or at your Indigenous Higher Education Unit on campus. Due to the postgraduate guide's success, plans are now underway for an undergraduate scholarship handbook, and online versions of both guides.

First Monash Indigenous Research Awards granted

One of the first Monash Indigenous Research Awards has been presented to Law school PhD student Brendan Loizou. Brendan has received the award to undertake his PhD on the topic 'Aboriginal People and Access to Justice: Are Their Rights Being Protected?'. He notes that his thesis will "focus on court procedures, human rights and the application of relevant principles to oral evidence, from the point of view of predominantly non-English speaking Aboriginal people". Brendan's research is being supervised by Castan Centre Deputy Director Melissa Castan along with Professor Adam Shoemaker, Monash University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and Professor Lynette Russell, Director and Deputy Dean, Faculty of Arts Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies (CAIS).

The Monash Indigenous Research

Award is the first of its kind at Monash University and was created by Professors Shoemaker and Russel in 2009 to enable high-achieving Indigenous students to pursue postgraduate research studies at Monash.

Brendan was thrilled to be chosen for the award. He told the Castan Centre that "Monash has been an incredibly welcoming and supportive environment to work in and has thoroughly encouraged the pursuit of my research interests." Brendan hopes that his research will have "practical application in the court system." Brendan has been working as the project officer in the Centre for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching at Monash and is a practising barrister in Victoria. While still in the early stages of his research, he has found the process so far very stimulating and is looking forward to further developing his thesis.

Postgraduate human rights unit prizes awarded

Academic awards for achievement have been presented to outstanding students in two human rights LLM subjects. The World Vision sponsored prize of \$1000 for the best student in *International Law and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, taught by Dr Paula Gerber, has been awarded to JD student Andy Gargett. Fiona Macleay from World Vision presented the prize to the inaugural winner. Andy's research project on the impact of climate change policies on Indigenous communities "demonstrated exceptionally high quality research and writing" says Dr Gerber, who also recommended Andy publish the essay.

The Trawalla Foundation, which invests in social enterprises and opportunities that focus on arts, ideas, innovation and scholarship, has sponsored a \$1,000 prize for the best student in *Protecting the rights of minorities, marginalised and vulnerable people*, a new unit also taught by Dr Gerber. This year's inaugural prize was shared by Andy Gargett and Alessandra Guadagnuolo. Alessandra's research examined how the work of the United Nations Human Rights Committee affects the protection of minority rights. Andy explored whether the right to birth included the right to a birth certificate.

For a full list of subjects available in the 2010 LLM (Human Rights) program, visit www.law.monash.edu.au/postgraduate/timetables/timetable-2010.html