



PhD Opportunities with the Drug Policy Modelling Program

The Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP)

- Are you interested in improving Australia's response to drug issues?
- Are you interested in contributing to knowledge about the formation and implementation of drug policy, in Australia and internationally?
- Do you have an Honours or Master's degree?

Then a PhD at DPMP may be of interest to you.

By studying with us, you will have the opportunity to generate research evidence that is timely and relevant to current drug and alcohol policy issues, translate research findings into meaningful information for policy decision-makers, and study the processes of policy development and implementation. You will have the opportunity to create valuable new drug policy insights, ideas and interventions that will enable a successful Australian response to drug-related issues and concerns.

What we do

Our work matters, it bridges the divide between research and policy. For example, our research staff led recent work that led to changes in ACT law regarding charges for illicit drug possession. We are committed to constructive, ethical, and academically rigorous research that contributes to knowledge and policy development, with the ultimate aim of benefiting society. If you seek postgraduate study that is well supported and enables you to develop high-level skills and knowledge in drug policy with a view to career pathways in this and related areas, please get in touch.

The DPMP team

Our central team is located in Sydney, at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales. One team member is in rural Victoria and our collaborators are at research institutions across Australia and the globe.

We are a multi-disciplinary group, with psychology, health economics, criminology, public policy, law, health services research, sociology and economics all represented. Our work includes a fascinating mix of methodologies that are tailored to project needs. Staff include a number of senior scholars as well as postgraduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and emerging specialists in particular areas of drug policy.

If you'd like to get to know more about what we do – turn the page.

PHD supervisors and possible dissertation fields

Professor Alison Ritter: drug policy; alcohol and other drug treatment systems research (planning & purchasing); policy impact evaluation; drug markets; policy processes a.ritter@unsw.edu.au

Dr Marian Shanahan: cost effectiveness and cost benefit analysis; health economics; program and treatment evaluation; cannabis policy; police diversion; quantification of intangible outcomes m.shanahan@unsw.edu.au

Dr Caitlin Hughes: impacts of drug laws, policing and criminal justice policies; drug law reform; police and court diversion; drugs and crime; drug markets, supply and trafficking caitlin.hughes@unsw.edu.au

Dr Monica Barratt: drugs and the internet; drugs on the dark net; drug checking (pill testing) and harm reduction; impacts of drug laws and policies; consumer involvement; digital research methods m.barratt@unsw.edu.au

Dr Thu Vuong: longitudinal study design and analysis; drug policy in Asian setting; cost effectiveness analysis; alcohol and other drug treatment evaluation research thu.vuong@unsw.edu.au

Kari Lancaster: qualitative research; media analysis; policy processes; harm reduction; drug treatment; stigma; consumer participation; evidence-based policy; law; social construction, poststructuralism and science & technology studies (STS) k.lancaster@unsw.edu.au

What's next?

Learn more about our work and our people, at <https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/group/dpmp>

Contact one of the potential DPMP supervisors to discuss your ideas and the opportunities we offer.

We can provide you with information on available scholarships, assist you with the application process, and help you to navigate the enrolment system. Additionally, there is often part-time employment to supplement PhD scholarships. This means there is opportunity to work on projects and develop skills that are beneficial for your study and career.

The Drug Policy Modelling Program has desk space and practical resources. As a student you will benefit from the friendly and supportive community in the program and at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.

Please, contact us to learn more and to see if the Drug Policy Modelling Program is the place for you.