TO THE ATTENTION OF POTENTIAL DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

PhD Scholarship in Education/IT
Faculty of Education
Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

A prestigious Australian Research Council (ARC)-funded PhD scholarship is now available in an exciting new project at Monash University "Digital Divas: Designing approaches to enthuse girls' interest in ICT studies and ICT careers".

There is evidence that short term, one off events targeting girls are not effective in addressing the longer term challenge of keeping girls interested in ICT and then moving into the ICT workforce. Research suggests larger intervention programs directed at a larger population are more effective than smaller projects. Therefore, what is needed is a longer term, more sustained program.

Using an action research, longitudinal research design, a program called Digital Divas (DD) will be designed, implemented and reviewed with the aim of exploring what stimulates girls' interest in and learning about ICT and ICT careers. Using educationally based materials specifically designed for Year 8 and 9 girls, a major goal of the study, and in particular the Ph D research component, will be to investigate how a longer term program can impact on girls' attitudes to ICT and which materials are most appropriate in doing so. The findings will help us better understand how to encourage girls to continue ICT studies and be attracted into ICT careers.

The PhD student will be under the supervision of Assoc Prof. Helen Forgasz (Monash University) and Dr Catherine Lang (Swinburne University). The stipend for the scholarship 2009 is $26,140 per annum (tax free). The scholarship is available from June 2009 for up to 3 years of PhD studies.
The project will also involve a Senior Research Fellow and team members from other universities and industry partners thus presenting a significant opportunity to carry out team-based research.

→Eligibility Requirements:

The prospective candidate must meet Monash University's entry requirements into a doctoral program. A four-year undergraduate degree with Honors or a Masters degree with a research component in Education, Information Systems or equivalent, with a 2nd class Honours result or equivalent (i.e., 70% or above) is required. Only citizens of Australia or New Zealand or permanent residents can apply.

Interested candidates should make contact Assoc Prof. Helen Forgasz at Helen.Forgasz@education.monash.edu.au and send a CV that includes information on average marks scored each semester/year, research experience, any special projects carried out, and a list of publications (if there are any). Also include a brief note explaining why you believe you are a strong PhD scholarship candidate for this particular research project!