

Interested in studying climate change and health?

The relationship between climate change and human health has begun to catch the attention of governments, business and universities around the world. Policy-makers are acknowledging that, as a 2009 watershed paper in the *Lancet* stated, global warming presents the biggest threat to human health in the 21st Century. They are looking for evidence on which to base health policy and service development decisions for a climate-changing world.

Rural and remote areas have long reported unequal health outcomes and pose particular policy challenges. These communities are also likely to feel the worst effects of climate change. There is a great need for actionable research into the health impacts of climate change on these communities in particular, as well as the impacts of climate change on human health more generally.

Why Rural Health?

The University Department of Rural health is uniquely positioned to support research into the human health challenges of climate change. Its multidisciplinary research culture can foster comprehensive approaches to researching the interactions between people, place, and community relevant to climate change. It has demonstrated expertise in making such research speak to policy-makers and practitioners and a strong track record of training researchers to do 'real world' research that makes a difference.

The multidisciplinary **University Department of Rural Health**, Tasmania, is committed to providing access to health care resources and contributing to improved health outcomes for people in rural and remote areas of Tasmania by:

- Working collaboratively to achieve an adequate, appropriately trained and stable rural health care workforce;
- Facilitating access to appropriate education and training opportunities, resources and on-going support across the learning continuum; and
- Promoting and supporting a population health approach to rural health research and preventative health strategies.

Possible thesis topics

- Managing natural resources for human health
- Sustainable farming for human health
- Health workforce development for climate change
- Mitigation and human health
- Activism for climate change and health
- Health education and prevention for climate change
- Health research methods for climate change
- Developing health and allied health services for climate change

Careers in Eco-health — one of the fastest growing areas of the future

- Mitigation consulting
- Environmental health practice
- Government health policy
- Health activism
- Health service administration
- Eco-health research in academia

Program supervisor: Dr Erica Bell is A/Co-director and Deputy Director at the University Department of Rural Health. She has published and presented over 30 papers on translational research issues across different sub-specialities of health and allied health. Her book *Research for Health Policy* was released internationally by Oxford University Press in 2009. She has taken a keen interest in the health impacts of climate change, particularly the adaptation needs of the health sector and has worked to facilitate a multidisciplinary dialogue on climate change issues in Tasmania. Erica is also lead editor for 4 other books, including a forthcoming 2010 volume with some of the world's most senior climate change researchers: *Climate Change and Rural Child Health*. As the principal supervisor for the climate change research concentration in UDRH, Erica will aim to ensure that students have opportunities to work with supervision teams comprised of leading Tasmanian researchers in climate change.

Entry Requirements

Master by Research: Admission is normally granted on the basis of a Bachelor degree with first or second class Honours.

Doctor of Philosophy: Admission to doctoral candidature is normally granted on the basis of a Bachelor degree with first class or second class upper division Honours or a Master degree by Research.

Master degrees by coursework with Honours or those that include a substantial research component leading to a written report may also be acceptable.

Other qualifications and/or research publications may be considered for entry with Head of School approval, a key requirement is that there has been some research activity leading to a thesis or equivalent publications.

How to Apply

Research candidates will need to contact Dr Erica Bell and postgraduate co-ordinator Dr Quynh Le to arrange to discuss your project, supervision arrangements, infrastructure requirements and intellectual property before completing the application form. Send an email introducing yourself, with your preliminary research topic and Curriculum Vitae (CV) to Dr Erica Bell. After this meeting you may send the application form, available for download at: <http://www.research.utas.edu.au/gr/forms/index.htm>

Tuition fees

Domestic candidates: Under the Federal Government Research Training Scheme for Australian residents, domestic graduate research candidates are exempted from tuition fees.

International candidates: All graduate research degree programs for international students are fee-paying programs. A complete list of annual tuition fees is available at: www.international.utas.edu.au/apps/courseTypes/

Scholarships

Scholarships are available to domestic and international graduate research candidates. For further information and application forms, please refer to: www.research.utas.edu.au/scholarships/

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