

## PhD Scholarship

# Innovations in qualitative methodologies: Exploring changes in gender equality related to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

## Summary

The Institute for Sustainable Futures is seeking applications for one PhD student to research innovative methodologies to examine the impacts of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions on gender equality. The research will focus on development and testing of innovative qualitative methodologies, complementing development of a quantitative multi-dimensional index by the wider research team. This PhD forms part of the DFAT Water for Women Water Research Awards study (2018-2021) 'Gender equality and women's empowerment in WASH'. The PhD will involve research with civil society partners, most likely in Nepal and/or Cambodia.

This position is available to domestic students (i.e. students who do not require a visa). The successful candidate will not have to pay course fees and will receive a living stipend of \$27,082 pa for full-time study (indexed annually). The deadline for applications is Friday 27 July 2018. The PhD will be supervised by Professor Juliet Willetts.

## Who we are looking for

We are seeking a PhD student with an interest in qualitative methodological development in relation to sustainable and inclusive WASH service delivery, gender equality and international development. The successful candidate will be comfortable using a variety of qualitative research methodologies and working with cross-cultural teams in developing country contexts. You will have an interest in working across disciplines and contributing as part of a wider research team towards development of rigorous evidence and its practical application. Ideally you will have experience or interest in one or more of the following topics: qualitative research methodologies and impact evaluation approaches; gender equality, women's empowerment, rural sanitation, rural water supply.

## Essential skills and aptitudes

- A masters or strong undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline (e.g. social science.) or equivalent.
- Demonstrated ability to undertake research at higher degree level i.e. demonstrated research experience or honours degree or master's degree with meaningful research component.
- Demonstrated high level critical thinking skills.
- Experience in working with/across different disciplines.
- Experience working in cross-cultural teams in developing country contexts.
- Experience in and/or knowledge of qualitative research methodologies and impact evaluation approaches, WASH and/or gender equality.

- A strong interest in advancing gender equality and progressive realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation.

## About ISF and the HDR Program

The Institute for Sustainable Futures at University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS) has been creating change towards sustainable futures by conducting independent project-based research with Australian and international partners since 1997. Our research and professional staff come from varied backgrounds, including engineering, architecture, management, economics, science, the social sciences, international studies and political studies.

ISF-UTS offers an award-winning postgraduate program for Masters and Doctoral research students. Our postgraduate students work at the leading edge of complex societal problems and sustainability challenges, across diverse topics. Our postgraduate research delivers real-world impacts, contributes to the flow of knowledge, and provides transformative learning experiences for participants.

ISF-UTS's unique postgraduate program is an integral part of our path to a better future. We nurture and develop the brightest, most curious minds, giving them the skills to navigate this complex multidisciplinary environment. Our vibrant community of scholars brings fresh insight, inspiring new ways of seeing – and solving – wicked problems.

## About the Project

'Gender equality and women's empowerment in WASH: strengthening civil society partnerships, workforce development and impact measurement' is a three-year (2018-2021) study funded by the Department of foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Water for Women Fund Water Research Awards.

The study addresses gaps in evidence and guidance for practitioners and policymakers regarding gender equality and women's empowerment in the WASH sector, especially with respect to increasing equality in leadership, decision-making and voice. In partnership with five civil society organisations (CSOs) and working across four countries, the research will investigate how CSOs can more strategically engage with civil society, government and private sector to achieve gender and socially inclusive WASH policy and practice, and measure relevant gender equality impacts. Three cross-cutting themes of women's voice and leadership, intersectionality and empowerment will draw on feminist theory and gender and development literature, to inform holistic approaches to gender transformative WASH.

Two empirical research components focus on strengthening implementation: (1) civil society partnerships with women's rights and gender organisations, and (2) gender equality in workforce development, in government and private sector. The third component focuses on impact measurement: (3) development of a multi-dimensional index, and complementary qualitative methodologies, on attributable impacts of WASH on gender equality.

The advertised PhD project forms the qualitative contribution to component 3. It will be undertaken with civil society partners, most likely focused on programs in Cambodia and/or Nepal. There is opportunity within the PhD to shape the specific focus and methodologies of the research in coordination with the wider research team.



## Location

Sydney with periods of travel, likely to Cambodia and/or Nepal.

## Commencement date

The scholarship will commence in early 2019 once the student has enrolled in a PhD program through the Institute for Sustainable Futures, at the University of Technology Sydney.

## Application Process



Interested candidates are requested to submit their resume and written responses to all selection criteria by the Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018. The successful candidate will then be required to complete and submit a formal PhD application to ISF. Please note that the successful candidate will still be assessed and ranked by the Institute for Sustainability on their suitability for undertaking a PhD.

For more information about ISF and the ISF HDR program please review the ISF website:  
<http://bit.ly/2gG0bxB>.

For more details on the eligibility requirements for PhD applications please read the following  
<http://bit.ly/2BMBZXW>

Please download the selection criteria and application details here: <https://bit.ly/2KCVeIA>

## Contact

If you have any question about the position please contact Naomi Carrard [Naomi.Carrard@uts.edu.au](mailto:Naomi.Carrard@uts.edu.au).