

About the Position

The Centre for Policy Development invites applications from current Australian PhD students for selection to a one-year PhD Studentship in Sustainable Economy. The studentship, which has been generously provided by the Digger and Shirley Martin Fund and the Hamer Family Fund, will enable a penultimate or final-year Australian PhD student to work part-time within CPD's Sustainable Economy Program.

The studentship is intended to support an outstanding student in the process of finishing their doctoral research who would like to apply that research within a policy-focussed environment. Preference will be given to candidates from disciplines related to the Sustainable Economy Program, particularly those who have academic or work experience across multiple disciplines (including at least two of science, engineering, economics, communications, law, political science, business or public administration).

Candidates should include the following in their online application:

1. Covering letter and CV, including a summary of education and qualifications to date;
2. A sample PhD thesis chapter and an outline of the project as a whole;
3. A sample of writing for a general audience which applies research findings to a policy issue;
4. A reference from his or her PhD supervisor in which the supervisor provides a judgement about the likely completion date of the thesis;
5. Details on which the candidate can be contacted.

Candidates should apply online via the CPD website. The deadline for applications is Friday 30th May at 5pm.

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.

Roles & responsibilities:

- Research the policy context relevant to doctoral findings and write high-quality, accessible reports in plain English under supervision of CPD's Research Director.
- Write occasional papers, articles, make media appearances and speak at events to communicate the relevance of doctoral findings to policy contexts.
- Collect, interpret and synthesize data to understand and explain scientific, economic and social context relevant to doctoral findings.
- Develop and apply environmental or natural resource economic analyses.
- Lead and direct consultation with key stakeholders and experts.
- Participate in forums where public policy issues are discussed and debated.
- Participate in internal CPD meetings and processes.
- Perform any other reasonable tasks assigned by the Research Director.

Selection Criteria

Essential

- Ongoing, interdisciplinary PhD research (penultimate or final-year level) in areas relevant to the Sustainable Economy Research Program.
- Academic or work experience across multiple disciplines including at least two of science, engineering, economics, communications, law, political science, business or public administration.
- Excellent research skills including demonstrated ability to rapidly and accurately collate, interpret and communicate qualitative and quantitative data.
- Excellent written and oral English communication skills – able to produce spontaneous, coherent and persuasive writing for a general audience.
- Excellent project and time management skills including the capacity to work under tight deadlines.
- Demonstrated ability to work both independently and collaboratively, in a small team.
- Demonstrated ability to quickly understand complex policy and political issues.
- Excellent interpersonal skills - ability to establish and maintain good relationships with funders and stakeholders; and to work with and review the quality of contributions by other researchers.
- Demonstrated strong skills in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

Desired

- A tertiary degree that includes the study of environmental or natural resource economics and/or experience in applied economics.
- Clear understanding of policy development and political processes.
- Strong public speaking and/or media experience.
- Familiarity with and aptitude for online collaboration and content management.

Conditions

This is a part time 12-month position. It can be based in Sydney or in Melbourne. A flexible schedule of contact hours, research tasks and output will be agreed with the successful candidate and their PhD supervisor.

An honorarium of \$10,000 will be paid in two installments. Some additional funding for research-related travel may also be provided.

The studentship will not be provided to help a candidate to complete their PhD research; it is intended to facilitate the application of research in policy areas and to provide the successful candidate with an opportunity to connect relevant academic research with stakeholders in the policy design process.

The successful applicant will report to the Research Director of the Sustainable Economy Program for their CPD work, and will remain under academic supervision for their doctoral research.

About CPD

The Centre for Policy Development (CPD) is an independent and non-partisan Australian research institute that develops and promotes policy proposals to help Australia thrive and lead in a fast-changing global environment. We have offices in Sydney and Melbourne and a network of fellows and experts across Australia.

CPD seeks out creative, viable ideas supported by careful, interdisciplinary research to inject into Australia's policy debates. We connect experts and stakeholders to fine-tune these ideas into implementable policy proposals and build the broadest possible evidence base for these proposals. Finally, CPD works to convince all levels of government and the community of the merits of implementation.

CPD exists because of a lack of long-term thinking on the challenges that will reshape Australia. We work to design and disseminate rigorous, implementable policy proposals that can outlast governments and safeguard current and future generations. Our preference is for policies that promote prosperity, fairness, inclusiveness, ethical and social responsibility, citizenship, stewardship and resilience.

About CPD's Sustainable Economy Program

The idea that economic strength and environmental sustainability are irreconcilable policy goals dominates Australian public debate on many important issues. This idea is not supported by evidence or public opinion, but is perpetuated by lazy and biased media coverage and the noisy voices of well-funded vested interests.

CPD's Sustainable Economy Program reframes these debates using economic evidence and arguments. It is underpinned by an understanding of the problems caused by systemic short-termism in both the public and private sectors and by the failure to value public goods which are hard to measure or monetise.

In its work so far, the Sustainable Economy Program has proven to be a low-cost, high-impact way to meet three objectives:

- Shift public debates away from the presumption that environmental sustainability and economic strength are incompatible policy goals and towards the recognition that a 'strong economy depends on a healthy environment'.
- Use economic tools to measure and demonstrate the economic and social benefits of strong environmental action.
- Provide an evidence base to inform long-term policy agendas that support environmental sustainability, economic prosperity, and social wellbeing.

The Sustainable Economy Program's research explores two complementary themes:

- *Valuing what matters* – demonstrating the value of Australia's natural capital, the true costs of environmental damage and the benefits of specific ecosystem services.
- *Greening our economy* – demonstrating that Australian industries can thrive in a resource and carbon-constrained future, if the right policy settings are in place.

The Program aims to identify options for Australia to make a rapid transition to an environmentally and socially sustainable economy. Australia has tremendous opportunity to leverage its abundant natural resources and skills in innovation to build a fair, sustainable and prosperous economy – one that provides a secure future for all Australians. Yet to do so, we need to get the policy settings right.

In January 2014 the Sustainable Economy Program was ranked 34th by the global Go-To Think Tank Index in the category of 'Best Transdisciplinary Research Program at a Think Tank' – the first Australian organisation to feature in this new category.