



Heat related adaptation of culturally and linguistically diverse populations: challenges and opportunities

Master of Public Health

Honours

Master by Research

PhD

In this era of world citizenship, it is important to document the overall impacts of heat on health and the adaptation practices which are often uniquely lined to cultural practices and the local climate. High-income countries such as the US, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Russia, UK, UAE, France, Canada, and Australia have the highest number of migrant populations in the world. Many of these migrants would be settle in entirely different climate zones. Such culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) populations will often have different adaptation knowledge and heat health risk perceptions. There is evidence to indicate that people's personal experiences and cultural backgrounds can make them invincible to health-related risks (eg: Elderly Jewish members who survived the holocaust perceived extreme temperatures as no risk to their health; strict dress code for Orthodox Jews/Arab women can affect heat-related health risks). On the other hand, in terms of adaptation knowledge, migrant populations may also possess knowledge of low-cost ways to adapt to hot weather or specific cultural practices that could enable effective adaptation. The potentially sharable adaptation knowledge gained from countries of origin of such CALD communities could disappear during the process of acculturation. Thus, these factors can affect adaptive capacities by either increasing or

decreasing vulnerability or resilience to hot weather. This project will explore heat-related adaptive capacity of CALD populations in Australia using a vulnerability-resilience framework. The student will be part of a multi-disciplinary team of national researchers aiming to document effective adaptation practices and strategies that could be adopted in low-resource settings in Australia.

Eligibility Criteria and Scholarship Provisions

Eligibility: The successful applicant will be eligible to enrol full-time in a PhD.

Scholarship Provisions: The applicant will be required to apply for a Domestic Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship through CDU. Additional Top-Up funds may be provided by the project.

Other research scholarship opportunities are available through Charles Darwin University.

<https://www.cdu.edu.au/research-and-innovation/higher-degree-research/scholarships>

Application Process:

Applicants should submit the following to Supriya Mathew:

(Supriya.mathew@menzies.edu.au)

- Brief summary of why they want to complete the project.
- Current CV with 2x reference contacts
- Copies of certified academic transcripts
- Proof of residency (not required for Australian citizens)

For more information on scholarships and how to apply follow the link below:

<https://www.cdu.edu.au/research-and-innovation/future-research-students>