

PhD Scholarship in Vision and Cognitive Neuroscience (Australian Research Council Funded Project)

Project Title: "Determining the neural mechanisms of automatic visuomotor associations".

Supervisor: Dr. Philippe Chouinard (School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University).

Location: Bendigo, Victoria, Australia.

This project aims to determine how we select actions to visual cues rapidly, unconsciously and automatically. Learning associations between visual stimuli and motor responses is part of normal development and continues throughout life. Rapid deployment of these actions is often critical for safety yet we have limited knowledge of how the human brain does this. This project will use visual psychophysics and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to characterise the neural architecture underlying these processes and determine how the dorsal and ventral streams of visual processing, specialised for motor control and recognition respectively, interact in vision-based actions as these actions become learned. Outcomes will provide new frameworks for driving improvement in any domain in which goal-directed actions depend on the rapid processing of visual information, including human-machine interfaces for defence, economic development, education, health, science and technology.

This project is funded by a research grant awarded to Dr. Philippe Chouinard, Prof. Sheila Crewther, and Prof. Melvyn Goodale (Western University, Canada) by the Australian Research Council (DP170103189).

Applicants should have a high level of achievement, including first class honours or equivalent for an undergraduate degree.

Benefits of the scholarship

Benefits of the scholarship, for both domestic and international students, include:

- A La Trobe Research Scholarship for three years, with a value of \$26,288 per annum, to support your living costs [2016 rate].
- A fee-relief scholarship (LTUFFRS) to cover all tuition fees for four years to undertake a PhD at La Trobe University.

How to apply

Follow these steps if you wish to apply for the scholarship:

- Review details on how to apply for candidature at www.latrobe.edu.au/research/future.
- Contact Dr. Philippe Chouinard (p.chouinard@latrobe.edu.au) to receive an in-principle agreement for supervision.
- When you have received in-principle agreement for supervision, complete and submit your application to the La Trobe Graduate Research School (admissions.grs@latrobe.edu.au) for admission into La Trobe's PhD program, indicating you wish to be considered for a PhD Scholarship in Vision and Cognitive Neuroscience.

The University will carefully review your application and consider you for a PhD Scholarship in Vision and Cognitive Neuroscience.

You will be advised of an outcome shortly after a decision is made.

Closing date

Applications will close when the position is filled.

Contact us

Please contact Dr Philippe Chouinard (p.chouinard@latrobe.edu.au) to discuss the details of this project.

Further information about Dr Philippe Chouinard's laboratory and access to infrastructure can be found at www.pachouinard.wordpress.com.