University of Sydney Gambling Treatment Clinic and Responsible Gambling Research Group – Visiting Scholars Program

The University of Sydney Gambling Treatment Clinic (GTC) and Responsible Gambling Research Group is pleased to present two exciting opportunities for active researchers within the gambling field to become a Visiting Scholar. Visiting Scholars usually are on temporary leave from their universities or research centres. They visit the GTC for a minimum period of at least two months, to collaborate on research projects and publications with GTC researchers.

Gambling is a global issue and answers to challenges are best found by working together. We believe in the power of networks and partnerships to bring together leading researchers from around the world to work collaboratively and find solutions. We are seeking to build partnerships with national and international gambling researchers that enable research to understand gambling and minimise gambling-related harm. These partnerships will include research cooperation, international exchange of ideas and progressing collaborative research. The partnerships will extend beyond the period of visitation and the intention is to establish ongoing and productive collaborative relationships between research centres.

The successful applicants will apply for an adjunct research position within the School of Psychology and work collaboratively with researchers within the GTC on a specific project of mutual interest. It is expected that this work will include securement of research funding, successful completion of a research project and publication in a high impact journal. Additionally, collaborators will have the opportunity to network with relevant stakeholders and attend local conferences and events. Research planning will commence prior to travel and collaboration continue after the placement.

Eligibility and Conditions

Successful applicants are expected to be based full-time in the GTC and to engage in research-related activities. The focus is explicitly on research: conducting or piloting experiments, writing a grant application to do research. Visiting collaborators are expected to make a contribution to the academic life of the School through such things as giving seminars or lectures, or providing training to other staff of postgraduate students in their area of expertise. Visiting collaborators must acknowledge the School of Psychology and the University of Sydney in the acknowledgements section on any publications arising in whole or part from their visit.

Applicants must have a PhD and track record of success in obtaining external funding, conducting research and writing high impact publications. We are looking for outstanding researchers who provide synergy with our research themes. This would include strengthening existing projects, developing new collaborations and enhancing existing projects led by the Visiting Scholar.

Financial Support

Successful applicants will be reimbursed for a return economy class airfare up to a maximum of $3000 and will receive a sum of $1000 to cover incidental expenses. In addition, an accommodation allowance of up to $1500 per week will be paid on production of a tax invoice for accommodation costs. The allowances for travel, incidentals and accommodation together have a maximum value of $9000. The travel reimbursement will be paid on production of an invoice or receipt from a travel agency once the collaborator has arrived in Sydney.

A start-up research budget of $1,000 will be provided by the GTC and it is expected that additional funding will be sought locally or by the applicant to support the research.

Assessment and Selection
In selecting successful applicants, the main criterion will be the potential of the visit to produce a productive research collaboration leading to tangible outcomes benefitting the GTC (e.g., publications, grants). Applicants must ensure that all necessary preparation and groundwork has been done to ensure a productive visit and must outline clearly the anticipated outcomes. When choosing the visit’s duration, make sure it is long enough to achieve what is planned.

Visits initiating a new collaboration are especially welcome. Although visits from current international collaborators are accepted, they must demonstrate that the proposed research is new or significantly enhances an existing collaboration. The application will be judged primarily on the benefits to the GTC arising from the likely research outcomes. Research track records of the applicant are relevant but are not a primary selection criterion. Indeed, preference will be given to strong proposals from early-career researchers and researchers without sufficient grant funding to support a collaborative visit.

Preparing an Application
A formal application involves the following steps:

1. The applicant should complete the application form below

2. The applicant should develop a description of the collaboration project. The project description should be submitted with the application form and should include:

   (A) A synopsis of current research activities as they relate to the proposed project (half a page);

   (B) A description of the collaborative work to be conducted at the GTC during the visit, including the aims, significance and suitability of the research collaboration. Applicants with an existing research collaboration with the GTC must detail how the proposed collaboration is new or different from the existing collaboration. (two pages);

   (C) Specific benefits to the GTC and School of Psychology arising from the visit including alignment with existing or developing research strengths, training and transfer of skills and expertise, potential for publications and grant applications, and the future path of the collaboration (one page maximum).

The attachment should be no more than 4 pages, including bibliographic references.

3. The international collaborator should include a curriculum vitae including:

   (A) refereed publications in last 5 years;

   (B) 5 career-best publications;

   (C) awards and invited lectures;

   (D) current research grant income (including other funding for the proposed visit);

This section should be no more than 4 pages. Please summarise your CV if you cannot fit complete details in this page limit.

Deadline
A complete application signed by the international collaborator must be received by 5pm on February 3, 2017.
Ethics

Research may not commence on any funded project until the appropriate Ethics or Biosafety Clearance has been obtained. Where the collaboration is closely aligned with existing GTC research, a simple ‘modification’ of an existing ethics protocol may suffice.

Final Report

After the visit, the collaborator and GTC researchers are required to provide a written report to the Head of School within three months of the end of the visit detailing what was achieved during the visit and what ongoing collaboration was set in train for the future. The report is expected to be 2-3 pages in length and will be published in the School of Psychology's annual report.

Contact

For further information please contact either Professor Alex Blaszczynski, GTC Director (alex.blaszczynski@sydney.edu.au), or Dr. Sally Gainsbury, GTC Deputy Director (sally.gainsbury@sydney.edu.au).

About the University of Sydney Gambling Treatment Clinic and Research Group

The successful applicant will travel to Sydney, an internationally renowned city listed in the top ten “most liveable cities” based on highest quality of living. The University of Sydney is ranked in the top 100 universities globally and the School of Psychology is the oldest in Australia. This initiative is part of the University’s Strategic Plan to invest in outstanding research, ensure our work has international impact and develop strategic international alliances. Research that emanates from the School is internationally recognised and includes a diverse range of topics with access to many resources, including latest technology.

The GTC is located within a state-of-the-art building officially opened in 2016. The GTC provides treatment for gamblers and family members and the research group conducts world leading research to inform the understanding of gambling and minimise gambling-related harms. The GTC Director, Professor Alex Blaszczynski, is widely recognised as a world leading gambling research expert. He is the recipient of the National Centre for Responsible Gambling Senior Investigator Research Award and his research, including the conceptual Pathways Model, has had a highly significant impact on the field. The Deputy Director, Dr. Sally Gainsbury, is the recipient of an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award, the 2015 Southern Cross University Vice Chancellor Award for Excellence in Early to Mid-Career Research and 2014 Australian Psychological Society Early Career Researcher Award.

GTC team members are frequently invited to give keynote presentations at conferences internationally and are highly successful in securing external grant funding. They have contributed to gambling policies in Australia and internationally and published extensively. Professor Blaszczynski and Dr. Gainsbury are the Editor in Chief and Editor of the leading academic journal International Gambling Studies.

Research priorities include:

- Policies and strategies to minimise gambling-related harms (e.g., warning messages and information displays, self-exclusion)
- The impact of Internet technology on harm
- Optimal treatment methods for gambling problems
Visiting International Collaborator Support (VICS) scheme

Application form for: 2017

1. Personal details, visiting collaborator

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2. Project title


A research plan is included in the application?: Yes / No

3. Proposed dates and duration of visit

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Note: Usually the visit will be made within 6 months of the VICS award. The exact dates are flexible within this window.

4. Signatures

Visiting Collaborator: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Please attach the following (as described on the VICS information form):

- Description of the research plan
- CV of the visiting collaborator