



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

## Looking for exciting PhD topics?

At the University of Melbourne a recently commenced larger ARC Linkage Project provides a number of open research problems for incoming PhD students. The project aims to enrich spatial datasets for concepts of *place*, an elusive concept in spatial information, but an omnipresent concept in common language and reasoning. Hence, sources to be studied include corpora of place descriptions, social media like blogs or twitter feeds, or linked data on the semantic web. Bridging this gap between databases and human communication will help the industry to provide smarter services. – More about the project can be found here: <http://telluswhere.net>.

### Required:

- Interested candidates should have an outstanding academic record and an honours or masters degree in spatial information science, computational linguistics, linguistics or similar disciplines.
- Candidates have to fulfil the entry requirements for a PhD at the University of Melbourne (<https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2009/351-AA>).

### Desired:

- Interest and ability to contribute to world-leading research, including extended visits of international partner labs
- Experience in spatial information, spatial cognition, spatial language, user-generated platforms, mobile location-based services or -gaming, data mining or similar
- Good programming skills
- Good communication skills, written and orally

### Terms:

- This call is an open call.
- Candidates should apply for scholarships through local or national scholarship programs (see, e.g., <http://cms.services.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships/pgrad>). Application deadlines for international students are in August, for domestic students in October.

- Under special circumstances (returning from industry in a relevant position) top-up stipends up to \$7k are available.
- In addition, international applicants with first class honours results will be assessed for the award of a fee remission.

## About the University of Melbourne:

The University of Melbourne is a research-intensive institution. In all international rankings it is among the top 100 universities in the world. For more information, visit [www.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.unimelb.edu.au).

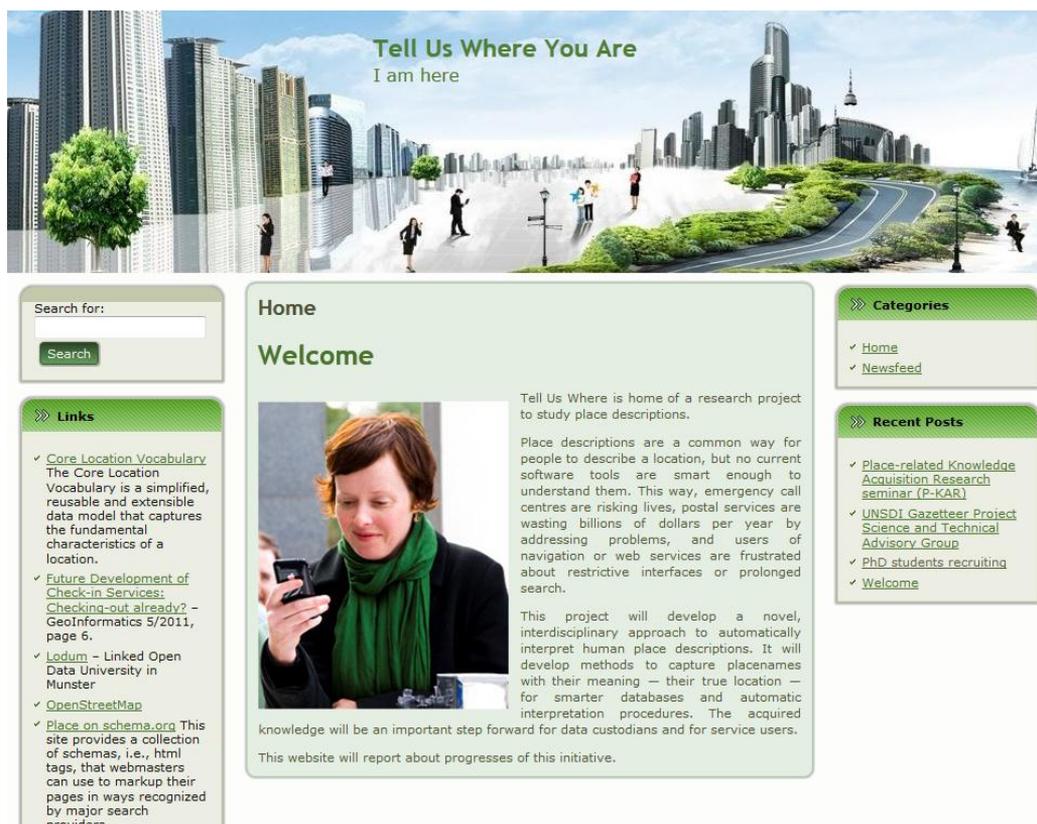
## How to apply:

General information on the application process can be found here:

[http://www.ie.unimelb.edu.au/future/future\\_phd.html](http://www.ie.unimelb.edu.au/future/future_phd.html). The first step is making contact by email with an academic involved in the project, as a potential supervisor:

- In spatial information: Stephan Winter, Matt Duckham, Allison Kealy, Abbas Rajabifard, Kai-Florian Richter
- In computational linguistics: Tim Baldwin, Lawrence Cavedon (RMIT University)
- In linguistics: Lesley Stirling

Your email should cover your motivation to apply, and in the attachments a CV and your transcripts.



**Tell Us Where You Are**  
I am here

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**Welcome**

Tell Us Where is home of a research project to study place descriptions.

Place descriptions are a common way for people to describe a location, but no current software tools are smart enough to understand them. This way, emergency call centres are risking lives, postal services are wasting billions of dollars per year by addressing problems, and users of navigation or web services are frustrated about restrictive interfaces or prolonged search.

This project will develop a novel, interdisciplinary approach to automatically interpret human place descriptions. It will develop methods to capture placenames with their meaning — their true location — for smarter databases and automatic interpretation procedures. The acquired knowledge will be an important step forward for data custodians and for service users.

This website will report about progresses of this initiative.

**Links**

- ✓ [Core Location Vocabulary](#)  
The Core Location Vocabulary is a simplified, reusable and extensible data model that captures the fundamental characteristics of a location.
- ✓ [Future Development of Check-in Services: Checking-out already? – GeoInformatics 5/2011, page 6.](#)
- ✓ [Lodum – Linked Open Data University in Munster](#)
- ✓ [OpenStreetMap](#)
- ✓ [Place on schema.org](#) This site provides a collection of schemas, i.e., html tags, that webmasters can use to markup their pages in ways recognized by major search providers

**Categories**

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