

## PROJECT DETAILS

Project Title:

**Embodied encounters: Exploring lifelong and life wide outdoor learning across industry-based vocational education and training (VET) in Western Australia (WA)**

Project Summary:

**Aim:** To explore embodied experiences in outdoor learning across industry-based vocational education and training (VET) in Western Australia (WA).

**Significance & Outcome:** Understanding embodied connections with environment and people are central to increasing opportunities for participation in lifelong and life wide outdoor learning for all ages in WA. Industry-based VET provision has a critical role in enabling these forms of embodied connections. This leads to outcomes related to developing learners' health, well-being, and citizenship.

**Impact:** Inform advances in the equitable development of industry-based outdoor learning in WA. Increased capacity of learners to respond to contemporary social, environmental and health challenges.

Preferred Applicant Skillset:

We are looking a PhD candidate who has:

- Experience and interest in outdoor learning across different environments (trails, aquatic) and activities (e.g. cycling, hillwalking, snorkeling, paddling).
- Skills to work in academic and industry settings with a range of stakeholders, policymakers, and educators.
- Experience of designing and using qualitative methodologies and methods.
- Excellent organisational, problem-solving, project management and communication skills.
- Experience and interest in sociological theory and academic writing is also desired.

Internship Opportunity:

The PhD candidature will include a 12-week internship at Outdoors Western Australia (WA) which is the central industry body for the outdoor sector in WA, including recreation, education and adventure tourism, and provides advocacy, leadership, and support to the outdoor sector. Building upon a developing partnership between the ECU Sport, Health and Education Research Community (SHEdRC) and Outdoors WA, the focus of the internship will be to:

1. Work with staff at Outdoors WA in the design and promotion of activities that contribute to the growth of high-quality outdoor learning provision in WA.
2. Liaise with key industry stakeholders, policymakers, and practitioners in policy and education developments related to the advocacy of outdoor learning experiences that are aligned with contemporary lifelong and life wide learning.
3. Support the development of dissemination practices that enable knowledge transfer related to outdoor learning across academia and industry settings.

This will strengthen partnerships with stakeholders in the development of vocational education and training that promotes lifelong and life wide forms of outdoor learning across WA institutional and industry settings.

Primary Contact:

Dr David Aldous

+61 8 6304 3187

d.aldous@ecu.edu.au