A message from our Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate Research

A couple of weeks ago a Scottish Ultrarunner was taking part in a 50-mile race from Manchester to Liverpool. Joasia Zakrzewsky was an excellent runner, a UK record holder at a number of distances, and she finished the race in third place, collected her trophy and travelled home. There was a problem though; GPS data showed that she had covered one of the mid race miles in one minute and 40 seconds, an implausible feat for even the world’s best miler! There was something fishy going on.

Performance enhancement in sports is a complex issue and the line between what is acceptable and what is not can often be quite difficult to determine. In Joasia’s case it turns out her performance was enhanced by taking a lift in a friend’s car, a technological aid that we would all consider to be problematic. But what about running shoes that improve your running efficiency by 4%; the type of shoes that Kipchoge wore when he broke the two-hour marathon barrier in Vienna in 2019? How should we evaluate the use of caffeine supplements to improve sprinters’ performance, the use of Viagra to improve athletic performance at altitude, or the use of tech suits to improve swimming performance? These are not simple questions and they become even more complex as technological innovation and understanding advances.

We are now facing very similar issues in research. When I started my PhD, a little over 30 years ago, one of the most useful resources was small change to feed into the photocopier. There were no electronic journal articles, and searching for papers
in my field was achieved through consulting a book of abstracts, cross referenced against a detailed subject index and then finding and copying relevant articles. Technology has transformed the research process. We can access the latest articles from our desks, utilise digital assistance tools to improve grammar and expression in our writing and use referencing tools to automatically collate bibliographies. The development of Large Language Modules and AI systems gives additional functionality that can provide useful summaries of research topics and code to support experimental design and analysis.

As with performance enhancement in sports, determining the criteria for the acceptable use of technology in research is similarly difficult. For the Scottish ultrarunner, it was important to be certain that she was moving forward through her own efforts and locomotion, enhanced through training and physical abilities. As researchers it is equally important that the contributions that we make arise from our own cognitive efforts, enhanced by research training and demonstrated through original thinking, analysis and creativity. Whilst it might be tempting to get into the car when things get challenging, please do not follow Joasia’s lead; there is much more satisfaction in knowing that your achievements arise from your own efforts.

Stay safe and stay well,
Professor Simon Handley, Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate Research

GR Workshops

For a listing of 2023 workshops, please visit MyRDC website; please note new courses are progressively added.

HDR Data Management Planning (DMP) Orientation (zoom)

3 May 2023

Register here

Thesis by Publication Workshop (STEMM)

4 May 2023

Register here

Thesis by Publication Workshop (HASS)

4 May 2023

Register here

Graduate Research info-session: Demystifying the examination process - MRes (In Person)

8 May 2023

Register here
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Register Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 - 23 May 2023</td>
<td>Writing for Publication in Humanities (3 week course on a weekday)</td>
<td>Register here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May 2023</td>
<td>Graduate Research info-session: Demystifying the examination process – PhD (Online)</td>
<td>Register here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 20 May 2023</td>
<td>Writing for Publication in Humanities (2 week course on a Saturday)</td>
<td>Register here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 May 2023</td>
<td>SPSS: Understanding SPSS and Preparing Your Data</td>
<td>Register here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May 2023</td>
<td>SPSS: Descriptive Statistics and Univariate Statistics</td>
<td>Register here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 May 2023</td>
<td>Survey Design and Practice Using LimeSurvey</td>
<td>Register here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 May 2023</td>
<td>Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 8: The Discussion [On Campus]</td>
<td>Register here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 May 2023</td>
<td>Saturday Writing Intensive MORNING session (ONLINE)</td>
<td>Register here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26 May 2023</td>
<td>NVivo for PC workshop</td>
<td>Register here</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Announcements

Save the Dates: Faculty of Arts Research Frontiers Conference – 20-22 June

Graduate researchers and staff from all Faculties are welcome to attend the Faculty of Arts Research Frontiers Conference: 20-22 June, 2023.

At this conference Arts MRes Year 2 candidates will meet a key MRes milestone when they present their research to the Faculty research community. This event is a celebration of the diverse and insightful research

Important Dates

22 May
Closing date for S2 2023 Bachelor of Philosophy applications
Note: MQBS and Arts do not offer BPhil commencement in session 2

5 June
Exams Start – Session 1 (applies to BPhil/MRes Y1)

23 June
Exams End – Session 1 (applies to BPhil/MRes Y1)
undertaken by Arts MRes Y2 researchers, and we hope you will join us for some or all of this fabulous conference.

A full calendar of important dates can be viewed on [Graduate Research Important Dates](#).

More information and a full program will be provided in the June issue of GR Matters. For now, please save the dates!

**Save the date - GRAfest 2023**

30 November 2023 on campus. Stay tuned for more details!

Join the Graduate Research Academy for our annual GRAfest. Hear from supervisors, fellow researchers, and experienced research trainers over a full day of workshops, panel presentations and social networking in a conference dedicated to Macquarie's Graduate Research community.

**Your opportunity to observe teaching [and teachers] in action**

Experienced MQ teaching staff are opening up their classrooms to allow other teaching staff to observe teaching in action. If you are new to teaching this is a great opportunity to see first hand how others approach their teaching and learn about the tools and technologies they use. You can register to observe classes throughout May. For more information and to register see this [link](#).

**News & Information**

**Launching in June! Thesis Coaching Program**
Looking to get your runaway thesis back on track and make some real progress? If you're feeling bogged down by low motivation and productivity, our brand-new Thesis Coaching program is here to help!

As a graduate researcher, you need to develop a comprehensive set of skills that goes beyond academic and disciplinary expertise. Unfortunately, many researchers miss out on crucial training in time management, goal setting, and maintaining high performance and momentum. That's where GR Development's Thesis Coaching Program comes in—it's designed to hone these essential skills and build productivity into your candidature.

Through the program, you'll establish a collaborative partnership with onepowerment of our thesis coaches (all of whom hold a PhD), who will provide you with support, motivation, encouragement, and if necessary, some gentle prodding. By the end of the program, you'll feel confident and back in control of your thesis, equipped with skills and strategies to make steady progress.

So, are you ready to take control of your research project? Don't miss out on this opportunity to boost your productivity and set yourself up for future success.

The 8-week program starts in June, with registration on the myRDC. Places are limited, so register today! For more information, email gr.development@mq.edu.au

Dr Frank Song
GR Development Advisor

The 2023 Research Excellence Awards are now open
The HDR specific categories recognize the success of our HDR Supervisors and HDR candidates making substantial contributions to research excellence and impact.

In 2021, the Excellence in Higher Degree Research Award went to:

STEMM – Dr Jenny Lee, Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine Health and Human Science

- Excellence in Higher Degree Research - outstanding research undertaken by a current or former higher degree research candidate in both HASS and STEMM based disciplines.
- Excellence in Higher Degree Research Supervision – Supervisor of the Year Award -outstanding HDR supervisors who enable our Higher Degree Research [HDR] candidates to achieve their highest potential.

Applications close at 11:59 pm on 9 June 2023, so start your application now!

Further information can be found on the Research Excellence Awards Webpage

Be part of celebrating Macquarie’s HDR research excellence – Apply now!

3rd Annual QTRG Conference
The Queer Theory Reading Group (QTRG) is excited to announce our 3rd annual conference! The conference is open to researchers of any career stage both inside and outside of Macquarie.

We have seen a recent explosion of queer voices in media, politics, and research. This proliferation begs the question: who is given the chance to speak for and within queer communities, and whose voices are diminished or altogether absent. How can queer subjects speak into and against silence? How are such absences correlated with practices of knowing and unknowing?

We understand queer research to go beyond disciplinary boundaries to include any work that is on queer topics, queer people, and queer theory, and welcome abstracts from any discipline or external organizations.

Abstract submission is accessible via this link and will be open until May 22nd 2023. The conference will run from 28th-29th September 2023.

**What is research data?**
In preparing your research Data Management Plan (DMP), you might find yourself thinking: “What is research data?” or “Do I have data?”. 

Research data is defined as any information that has been collected, generated, processed or utilized to conduct your research or to validate your research findings. For some this is obvious, as you measure or record things. For others it is less obvious, but just think about ”What files will I create”. This could be code, models, formulas, designs, copies or downloads of texts, or reflective writings you create related to your PhD project. These things constitute your research data that we want to ensure is properly collected, created, stored, accessed, organised and shared throughout your research process.

If you have questions regarding your data, contact eResearch@mq.edu.au

Creative Thinking for Graduate Researchers

Are you a higher degree research student looking to expand yourself in skills and mindset to get better prepared for a rapidly changing world? The Incubator’s EXPANSIVITY modules have you covered!
Across the four modules, you'll learn essential tools and techniques to cultivate a creative outlook to your research and beyond, with feedback and support from the facilitator and peers as you develop your skills.

2023 Program Dates:

Module 1 – *Design Think your HDR Toolkit*

Wednesday 17th and Friday 19th May
For details and registration, click [here](#)

Module 2 – *Journey Map your HDR with the Research Canvas*

Wednesday 14th and Friday 16th June
For details and registration, click [here](#)

Module 3 – *Think like an Entrepreneur and Lean your HDR*

Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th August
For details and registration, click [here](#)

Module 4 – *Solve Social Challenges and Wicked problems with Creative Research*

Monday 16th and Wednesday 18th October
For details and registration, click [here](#)

**Macquarie University Awarded - Medical Research Future Fund Grant**

Dr Karla Seaman and Dr Magda Raban
Macquarie University has been awarded $1.5 million in the latest round of Medical Research Future Fund grants for a project to help protect aged care residents from medication errors.

Dr Karla Seaman and Dr Magda Raban at the Australian Institute of Health Innovation are mid-career researchers and leading the team to improve the safe use of medicines in residential aged care by creating a digital one-stop platform for faster and easier medication reviews by pharmacists.

This research is in response to reports during the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety that aged care residents are at increased risk of harm from medication errors, with each resident experiencing on average three to four medication related problems.

The platform will allow all stakeholders, including pharmacists, GPs, residents and their carers, and aged care staff, to monitor the medication review process.

"Involving all stakeholders more routinely in the review of medication, and having the review recommendations followed, is a very effective way of improving care for residents," says Dr Seaman, who is the lead investigator.

Link to further information see link.

DVC(R) Weather Forecast 2023

Professor Sakkie Pretorius will be presenting his annual research 'weather report' as a 'weather forecast' this Thursday, 4 May 2023, 12:30pm-1:30pm.

At this year's Weather Report, Professor Pretorius will be providing an update on Macquarie University's research excellence, engagement and impact. He will also explore how we will maximise our research potential by building excellence at scale, outlining the connection of our research strategy to our multiple futures, and introducing our 2023 Macquarie University Research Centres.
To register, click here

The event will be live streamed and a recording of the DVCR Weather Forecast 2023 will be made available for those who are unable to attend on the day.

Relaunching Peer Mentoring for Graduate Researchers

After a hiatus, the GRA is relaunching a Peer Mentoring program, redesigned with your help. The aim of peer mentoring is to support social connection and sharing of research student know-how. If you're interested in

- Connecting with your peers
- Developing leadership skills
- Sharing your research know-how

Please get in touch program coordinator, Andrew Dunstall on gr.mentors@mq.edu.au

CSIRO Industry PhD Program

Expression of Interest applications are open until the 5th of May, for academics to submit proposals in the CSIRO Industry PhD program. This program will support a three-way partnership aiming to train new researchers in critical areas and facilitate long-term beneficial interaction between research organisations and industry.

The program is only open for domestic candidates but will support MRes year 2 + PhD bundle offers. Candidates will receive a $45,000 scholarship, and will also have
at least a 3-month Industry Engagement Component, conducting research under the
guidance of the industry partner

Visit [link](#) for information and to register your interest in this program.

**Supervision News & Information**

**Graduate Research Supervision**

![Chart](image)

**Supervision Forum Series**

The Supervision Forum Series is on again! Come along and hear from experience supervisors about how they support and guide their candidates.

Don't miss out! Register now!

**Week 1: Supervision practices**  
Date and time: 10.00am - 11.00am, Wednesday 3 May  
[Register here](#)

**Week 2: Maintaining progress and resolving differences**  
Date and time: 10.00am - 11.00am, Wednesday 10 May  
[Register here](#)

**Week 3: Supervising candidates undertaking industry research programs or internships**  
Date and time: 10.00am - 11.00am, Wednesday 17 May  
[Register here](#)

**Week 4: Excellence in HDR Supervision**  
Date and time: 10.00am - 11.00am, Wednesday 24 May  
[Register here](#)
Upcoming info-sessions
For a full list of 2023 info-sessions, please visit the Supervisor Enhancement website.

4 May
Supervisor Research Data Management (Online)
Demystifying the examination process - MRes (In person)
Register here →

8 May
Demystifying the examination process - PhD (Online)
Masterclass – Research Supervision (Online)
Register here →

11 May
26 May

Upcoming info-sessions
For a full list of 2023 info-sessions, please visit the Supervisor Enhancement website.

Scholarships

Australian Rotary Health PhD Scholarships

Australian Rotary Health is one of the largest independent funders of mental health research within Australia.

Australian Rotary Health provides funding towards research grants, fellowships and PhD scholarships focused on finding preventative and curative solutions for mental illness in young Australians.

They also provide funding into a broad range of general health areas, provide scholarships for rural medical and nursing students, as well as Indigenous health students. Australian Rotary Health provides funding into areas of health that do not readily attract funding and promotes findings to the community.

For details of the PhD scholarships offered by Australian Rotary Health, please click here.
Cotutelle and International Opportunities

GR Scholarships

GR Development & Experience

My Research Program

YOU to the power of us