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University

Office of HDR Training and Partnerships

April 2021

## **A message from our Pro Vice-Chancellor, Higher Degree Research Training & Partnerships**

Completing a research degree is one of the most challenging experiences of academic life. You will need to manage doubt about your progress, deal productively with debate, disagreement and criticism and negotiate the challenges of working with research leaders who may have distinctive styles and approaches. You will also need to learn to manage the uncertainty and unpredictability of academic publishing.

I still recall the reviews of one of my first submitted papers that was written by a leader in my field. Whilst I was convinced that my research was exceptionally insightful and creative and would have a transformational impact, the reviewer described the work as 'parenthetical' and recommended the rejection of my paper. I remember the overwhelming disappointment in an evaluation that seemed to position my research as no more worthy than a passing reference in parentheses. This led to deep reflections on my own judgment and capabilities, but also a strong determination to demonstrate that my work had more relevance than this particular reviewer had identified.

There is no doubt that this early experience was crushing, but it was also a very valuable lesson in managing criticism and responding productively to it. Whilst I disagreed with the reviewer's perspective, I also reflected that I needed to work harder at communicating the significance of my work to the field. What I also learnt and have taken with me ever since, is the importance of being constructive and

generous in our professional lives. At some point in the future many of you will be in the position of evaluating the research work of more junior colleagues. Remember how much damage can be done through a disparaging remark or a misplaced criticism, so be kind and respectful in your comments and be generous with your ideas. After all, we were all at the start of our academic journeys not so long ago!

Stay safe and stay well,

*Professor Simon Handley, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Higher Degree Research Training and Partnerships*

**[COVID-19 FAQs for HDR](#) (Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection: latest information – Information for Students – Changes to Session 1 – HDR Students**

## HDR Workshops

All workshops can be found on the [MyRDC](#).

Tuesdays 11am-1pm	<b>HDR Statistical Consulting Service</b>  <a href="#">Email A/Prof Peter Petocz</a> →	8 April	<b>Survey Design and Practice Using Qualtrics</b>  <a href="#">Register now</a> →
9 April	<b>Survey Design and Practice Using Lime Survey</b>  <a href="#">Register now</a> →	14 - 15 April	<b>SPSS Intermediate Workshop (Zoom)</b>  <a href="#">Register now</a> →
15 April	<b>MQBS HDR writing workshops: Techniques in discussing results and drawing conclusion</b>  <a href="#">Register now</a> →	19 April	<b>Face-to-Face April mini-writing retreat</b>  <a href="#">Register now</a> →
19 April	<b>ONLINE April mini-writing retreat</b>	20 April	<b>Thesis Formatting Workshop (for Mac) -</b>

[Register now](#) →**Zoom**[Register now](#) →

21 April

**Pure training for new staff**[Register now](#) →

21 April

**Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 4: The Results Section**[Register now](#) →

21 April

**ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 4: The Results Section**[Register now](#) →

28 April

**How to run a motivated and engaged research group**[Register now](#) →

3 May

**Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 5: Data presentation**[Register now](#) →

3 May

**ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 5: Data presentation**[Register now](#) →

5 - 6 May

**NVivo for Mac (v12) – Zoom**[Register now](#) →

13 May

**MQBS HDR academic writing workshops: Delivering an oral presentation of research**[Register now](#) →

## HDR Announcements



## Important Dates

**10 April** (TBC) - Australia Award Scholarship closes (MQ deadline)

**28 April** - Last date to withdraw without Fail. Financial penalty applies (applies to BPhil/MRes Yr1)

**30 April** - Closing date for domestic MRes applications for S2 2021

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

## Important information for new candidates

During your degree, you may need to access resources or make changes to your candidature. Candidates are encouraged to review the following information and discuss matters relating to their candidature with their supervisor.

- [Action Plans](#)
- [Confirming candidature](#)
- [Changes to candidature](#)
- [Annual Progress Report](#)
- [Tools and support](#)

## Stipend for Domestic BPhil Candidates in S1 2021

The Census Date for BPhil candidates was 18 March 2021! Any candidates who may have met the eligibility criteria for the BPhil stipend payment will have received an email notification from the OHD RTP to update their banking details. Students will receive these payments in due course. If you received the email but have not yet updated your banking details, please do so via eStudent as

## Central Commencement Program (CCP)

Information for both the Central Commencement Program (CCP) Online for HDR and MRes Year Two was emailed to all new respective candidates at the beginning of March. For those who did not receive the email, please visit the [current candidates website](#) to review the steps for completing the CCP. If you have any questions, please email [hdr.induction@mq.edu.au](mailto:hdr.induction@mq.edu.au).

soon as possible so that you can receive your payment.

## Peer Writing Assistance (PWA) sessions

Are you a HDR student? Do you need help with your writing? Are you confused about the HDR journey? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then the Peer Writing Assistance program is here to help. Peer Writing Assistants (PWAs) are current Macquarie PhD and post doctorate students who can assist in helping you gain new perspectives on your research ideas and writing. Please visit the [PWA website](#) and register your interest for a 45-minute consultation. Due to the current social distancing practises, all PWA consultations will occur remotely via Zoom. Those of you who are unfamiliar with Zoom, please read the [Zoom basics](#).

## HDR Statistical Consultancy Service

Just a reminder that you can access advice from the HDR Statistical Consultancy Service!

Associate Professor Peter Petocz from Macquarie's Department of Statistics is happy to have a look at your data and analyses and to discuss with you what the numbers seem to be saying.

The HDR Statistical Consulting Service is available on Tuesdays 11am - 1pm in Room 1.31, 16 Wally's Walk. [Please email Peter for a booking.](#)

## HDR Stories

### 2021 Industry Mentoring Network in STEM Program – Applications open!



If you have been looking for an opportunity to engage with industry, expand your professional networks and develop your career skills then the Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS) could be the program for you!

OHD RTP in collaboration with Macquarie University faculties are seeking expressions of interest from doctoral candidates, ideally in their second year of study, that would like to participate in the 2021 IMNIS mentoring program.

IMNIS is an award-winning industry-led initiative of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering. IMNIS connects motivated PhD students (mentees) in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with outstanding high-level industry leaders (mentors) in a one-year industry mentoring program. More information about the program is available on the IMNIS [website](#).

By now, all MQ PhD Candidates will have been emailed an online expression of interest form [link](#) from OHD RTP. If you need any further information, check out our [webpage](#) and [MQ HDR Professional Development iLearn](#) page which has links to [podcasts](#), [mentee profiles](#) and a 10 minute [video](#) interview featuring previous IMNIS mentees. You can also contact Catherine Ennis, HDR Industry Engagement and Placements Manager on [ProfDevHDR@mq.edu.au](mailto:ProfDevHDR@mq.edu.au).

*Catherine Ennis, HDR Industry Engagement and Placements Manager*

## Thesis writing and friendships





Original photos by [Thomas Franke](#) and [visuals](#) on [Unsplash](#)

“A friend in need is a friend indeed.” Yet in those last few months leading up to your thesis submission date, often what we need from our friends is space. Space to temporarily disconnect from our friendships while we focus on getting over the final hurdle – thesis submission. In the last 8 months of my PhD, I told my friends that during this time I would no longer be organising any social events (I did a lot of organising back then) and whilst I’d do my best to attend anything they organise (and would still like to be invited), I would be declining most. I explained that it was nothing personal but that for me to finish my PhD I needed to be purposely “anti-social”.

I count myself lucky that my friends understood this: they gave me my space without feeling slighted. However, I have also seen how the friendships of fellow thesis writers can sadly dissolve during this period. It can be difficult for our friends, especially non-PhD friends, to understand that although you need to and you will take breaks during this time, that often these breaks are limited to spending time with close family or binge-watch the latest Netflix series because our mental energy cannot cope with anything more.

Aside from spending the time to explain the above to your friends, I cannot offer any solutions to this dilemma that some of you may face if they are unable to understand your situation. Instead, by writing about this, my aim is to acknowledge that this is a thing in the PhD-world. If you find yourself having arguments with friends over your focus on your PhD, you may want to talk to a counsellor at Campus Wellbeing to discuss if it is worth pursuing the friendship or letting the friendship go. And for all your friends that do understand your needs – make sure you keep them as they are clearly friends indeed.

*Dr Megan Brewer, HDR Learning Advisor*

## HDR Mentors presents: BBQ/Picnic



Image credit: Photo by [Mason Dahl](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Date: 10 April 2021

Time: 12pm - 3pm

Have you thought of enjoying a BBQ/picnic in an environment full of nature with your colleagues? As part of the HDR mentors' Meet & Mingle events, we are planning to hold a BBQ/picnic in April. We will book a BBQ facility and you can bring your own meat/meat products or veggies. Alternatively, you can come with your lunch and enjoy a picnic. Family members are welcome at this event. For more details, please look out for an email from [hdrmentors@mq.edu.au](mailto:hdrmentors@mq.edu.au). Hope to see you there.

*Muhammad Chutiya (Chuti), PhD Candidate and HDR Mentor.*

## HDR Mentors presents: Stress Less with Ashwin



When: 15 April 2021



Time: 12pm - 1pm

Are you an HDR candidate feeling isolated? Does research overwhelm you? Do you stress-procrastinate? Has the COVID-19 pandemic and the changes it has brought about in our lives increased your stress levels? Are you worried about the uncertainty around you? Are you looking for practical strategies to de-stress?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, then the upcoming Stress Management Workshop is ideal for you!

After the success of our 2019 Stress Management workshop, HDR Mentors is once again ready to collaborate with Campus Wellbeing to address an issue plaguing a large number of HDR candidates: Stress management.

This is your chance to hear from an expert about ways to control stress rather than being controlled by it!

The workshop will be led by Ashwin Singh (Allied Health Advisor, Campus Wellbeing) who will help HDR's reflect on the stressors they have encountered during their HDR journeys and introduce effective tips to de-stress and help you stay on track!

[Register here](#), you don't want to miss out an opportunity to stress-less!

*Bhavana Penmetcha & Saba Akbar, PhD Candidates and HDR Mentors*

*Editor's note: if you can't make the workshop, look out for tips about navigating your HDR journey from other current candidates. Check out this blog from one of our own HDR Candidates, Pia Tenedero: [10 secrets to surviving your PhD](#)*

## 30 seconds with Vidya Alvares



*Vidya Alvares, Higher Degree Research Operations Officer*

### **What is your role in the Office of Higher Degree Research, Training and Partnerships?**

I am currently working in the Scholarships team, but shortly will be transitioning into the Progressions team. As a scholarship officer, we administer different types of scholarships and take care of all the stipend payments for successful scholarship holders. I look after the issuing of scholarship offers for all progressing candidates i.e either from BPhil/MRes Year 1 to MRes Year 2 or from MRes Year 2 to PhD. I also look after all the fee related issues from students and work with International students on their outstanding tuition fee debts.

In the progression team, I will be primarily looking after candidature and scholarship extension requests submitted by current HDR candidates that require more time to complete their thesis.

### **What brought you to this role?**

I started my role at Macquarie as an HDR Admissions officer, however after working there for a few years I was excited about an opportunity that became available in the Scholarships team. With a finance background and love for numbers, I did not hesitate to apply for the role as I was keen to start working with numbers again.

### **What is your favourite aspect of the role?**

As a scholarships officer, it is always rewarding to see the joy we bring to our HDR Candidates when we notify them that they have been successful for a scholarship (especially International candidates). I am also looking forward to the exciting and challenging tasks (in the progressions team) of helping our HDR Candidates especially when they are at the end of their candidature and preparing to submit their thesis - to ensure they have a smooth and stress-free experience.

*Vidya Alvares, Higher Degree Research Operations Officer*

## **Scholarships**



## **Australian Institute of Health Innovation - COVID-19 and future crisis preparedness in healthcare**

L-R Johanna Westbrook, Jeffrey Braithwaite, Enrico Coiera

The Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI) is pleased to announce the release of five new domestic PhD scholarships, focussing on research into Covid-19 and health system crisis planning.

With a track record of delivering internationally significant research, AIHI leads in understanding responses to the pandemic along with preparing for future health crises. The directors, Professors Jeffrey Braithwaite, Johanna Westbrook and Enrico Coiera, are seeking suitably qualified candidates with pioneering ideas for research in this field.

For further information, see the [scholarship details](#) on our Scholarship website.



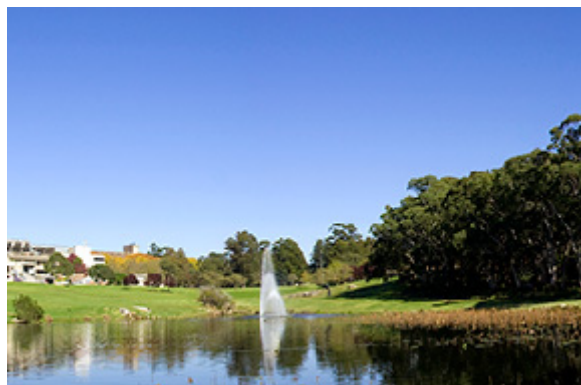
**Cotutelle and International Opportunities**



**Higher Degree Research Scholarships**



## HDR Support & Development



## My Research Program

**YOU** *to the power of us*



Macquarie University NSW 2109 Australia

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