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University

Graduate Research Academy

August 2021

A message from our Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate Research

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A few years ago, I made a last-minute decision to run a marathon at midnight around Narrabeen lakes on one of the hottest January nights of the year. Undertrained and underprepared, I dragged myself around the 26 miles and hobbled away with acute Achilles tendonitis. During a subsequent therapy session, my physiotherapist noticed a pulsating lump in my neck and suggested I might like to seek a medical opinion.

The diagnosis of an aneurysm in a major artery followed, together with an operation to remove two ribs, a painful recovery and a successful resolution.

Life, like research, can throw up unexpected outcomes. An ill-conceived plan to run a marathon in the middle of the night can lead to the resolution of a life-threatening condition, just as the act of discarding Petri dishes on a lab bench can result in a discovery that will save hundreds of millions of lives. Serendipity is an unexpected event that occurs, often by chance, when we are searching for something else. It results in accidental and often impactful breakthroughs, such as Alexander Fleming's discovery of Penicillin in his discarded Petri dishes or Percy Spencer's discovery that microwaves can be used to cook food, from observing that his peanut bar melted as he tested the output of a magnetron.

Serendipity in research has been described as the act of finding answers to questions not yet posed. Sometimes the most important or exciting discoveries are the ones that we don't expect. So, how do we create the conditions for such unexpected discovery? I would encourage you to take more risks, plan a little less and explore a little more. As the History of Science shows, curiosity driven research is often the most reliable way to generate novel discoveries and innovations. As the next generation of research leaders, please do seek out the unexpected. You never know, one day a serendipitous discovery could help you to put your mark on history, have a transformative impact on society or even save your life!

Stay safe and stay well,

Professor Simon Handley, Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate Research

**[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	HDR Statistical Consulting Service 16WW (Lincoln Building), Room 1.31 (Level 1) Appointments recommended: contact A/Prof Peter Petocz (peter.petocz@mq.edu.au)	2 – 31 August	Deep Work Morning Sessions (Online via Zoom) Register here →
10 August – 14 September	Science Research Writing Basics Register here →	11 August	ONLINE August mini-writing retreat Register here →
16 – 17 August	NVivo for PC - Level One (Zoom/TBA) Register here →	17 August	ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 3: Improving the flow of your writing Register here →
26 August	Managing Up:	3 September	F2F: Science Writing

	Effective Communications for ECRs Register here →		for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 4: The Results Section Register here →
3 September	ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 4: The Results Section Register here →	15 September	Thesis Formatting Workshop (for Mac) - Zoom/TBA Register here →
15 September	Developing your Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence for the DECRA Scheme Register here →	22 September	Developing your DECRA Project Description Register here →
23 September	F2F Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series.	23 September	ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series.

Workshop 5: Data presentation

[Register here](#) →

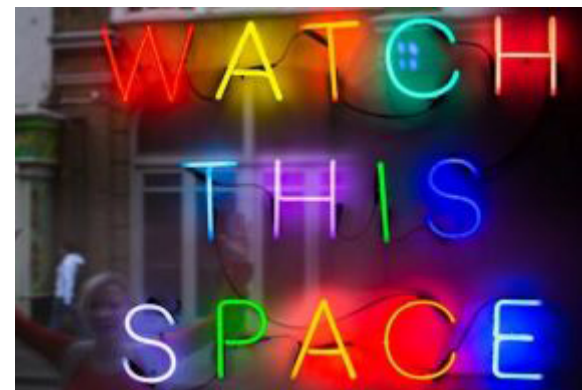
Workshop 5: Data presentation

[Register here](#) →

HDR Announcements



AIHI Webinar



Further Expand Your Mind

All staff and students are invited to attend the AIHI Webinar on **10 August 11am-12noon** with Macquarie's Professors Lesley Hughes and Jeffrey Braithwaite on the latest climate science, the implications for human health, and what we need to do to ensure a safer world. Registrations are essential.

[Register here](#) →

& Skills

This Semester, the Graduate Research Academy will be organising additional training opportunities for our candidates! These include industry opportunities (HDREngage, Design Thinking with the Incubator), training in software, research communication and we're aiming to host a Graduate Research conference! Watch this space and check out [myRDC!](#)

If you have ideas for training opportunities that would benefit your research development please contact us at HDRmatters@mq.edu.au and we'll look into it!



Foundations in HDR Supervision

The new **Foundations in HDR Supervision** course is now available in [Workday!](#)

Details about the course content and how to access the course can be found on the [Supervision Enhancement website](#).

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 postdoctoral candidates 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

DVCR Weather Report

SAVE THE DATE - The annual DVCR Weather Report will be held on Tuesday, 14 September 2021 – 2pm-3pm.

Details of the event will be circulated in due course.

Important Dates

1 August - Domestic Scholarship round for 2022 opens (PhD, MPhil, MRes Y2)

1 August - Domestic applications for BPhil/MRes for S1 2022 commencement open

7 August - Session 2 Census date for candidates enrolled in MRes Yr2, MPhil and PhD

8 August - Session 2 Last day to enrol (applicable to BPhil/MRes Yr1)

consultation. Due to the current social distancing practices, all PWA consultations will occur remotely via Zoom. Those of you who are unfamiliar with Zoom, please read the [Zoom basics](#).

15 August - International HDR Main Scholarship Round for 2022 closes

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

HDR News & Information

Research Strategy 2025 released – a roadmap to our bold HDR ambitions



Our refreshed strategic research framework, *Research Strategy 2025: World-leading research; World-changing impact* builds on the achievements of the original *Strategic Research Framework: 2015-2024*. Continuing to chart an exciting course

for our research, *Research Strategy 2025* is aimed at accelerating and propelling our research performance to even greater heights while recognising the changed context we are operating within.

The successes achieved at the halfway point of the *Strategic Research Framework*, are testament to the commitment and excellence of our researchers, HDR candidates, and research and research training support staff.

While the establishment of the Graduate Research Academy (GRA) will streamline and centralise all aspects of HDR operations, training and support to deliver an exceptional research graduate training experience, our ultimate goal is to prepare research graduates for productive, diverse and exciting careers. We will increase our focus on employability outcomes while offering our HDR candidates unique experiences with international partners through our leading Cotutelle and Joint PhD programs.

Professor Sakkie Pretorius elaborates that “*Research Strategy 2025* and the establishment of the Graduate Research Academy offer inspiring opportunities for our HDR candidates – preparing them to become the world-ready leaders of tomorrow”.

View our [Research Strategy 2025](#).

IMNIS 2021/2022 Industry Mentoring Program at Macquarie University



We are delighted to advise that 20 PhD candidates from Macquarie University will be taking part in the [Industry Mentoring Network in STEM](#) (IMNIS) program over the next 12 months. IMNIS is an award-winning industry-led initiative of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering. IMNIS connects motivated PhD students (mentees) in mainly science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with outstanding high level industry leaders (mentors) in a one year industry mentoring program.

An online induction was held by MQ staff in early June for the MQ IMNIS mentees to learn more about the mentoring program and network with each other. Mentees will now go through a matching process with IMNIS to find a suitable mentor.

Thank you to the 2020/2021 MQ cohort for their active participation in the program. A big thank you to all the faculty staff who support the IMNIS program and promoted it to their candidates.

Catherine Ennis, HDR Industry Engagement and Placements Manager

In the Write Company



Winter HDR Writing Retreat

In the middle of July, over two dozen PhD and MRes candidates came together virtually to make serious progress on their theses at the Winter HDR Writing Retreat. Being online, these candidates could join us from all around the world: Singapore, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Mexico, Canada, and of course Australia.

With morning writing warm-ups, afternoon writing workshops, accountability group check-ins, 1:1 consultations, and lots of quiet writing time, all participants reported much higher productivity and focus on retreat than they usually achieve working alone.

“Lucky Zoor prizes” from [Thinkwell](#), stretch & hydrate breaks, midday HIIT sessions, and a mindfulness tasting plate helped gel the group, break up the working day, and promote sustainable writing habits. And with Day 2 of the retreat falling on 14 July,

we had a spontaneous moment marking Bastille Day – only possible on Zoom with those crazy filters!

Thank you to the Graduate Research Development team, and Drs Olga Kozar and Michelle Jamieson for making the 2021 Winter Writing Retreat another great success. Want your own write company? Why not join the daily [Deep Work Morning Sessions](#), the [August mini-writing retreat](#) on 11 August, or a [Research Writing Group](#).

Dr Juliet Lum, Graduate Research Development Manager

Getting published



Photo by [Elisa Ventur](#) on [Unsplash](#)

You've done all the hard work researching your topic, now you need to tell the academic world your story. Before you start writing your story up, you need to think about who wants to hear about your story and which journal to publish your findings in. Selecting a journal is tricky with many things to think about. Your chosen journal

must be relevant to your field, it needs to have a good reputation, it needs to be easily accessible by readers, and you need to ensure it has ethical and valid publishing practices.

Help is at hand to advise you on how to make this choice in the online workshop delivered in S1 and S2 by our fantastic research librarians. If you can't wait until the next time this workshop is delivered, a recording of one of the workshops is available on the HDR Learning Skills ilearn unit in our saved workshop collection.

Careers Week 9-13th August



Careers Week is on-line this year and has career tips for undergraduates and HDR graduates. From learning more about recruitment opportunities (“Ask the Recruiter”) to developing your digital CV (“Develop your brand/digital CV using Adobe Spark”), this week promises to deliver to help you achieve your career goals. Please find more information and how to book your place [here](#).

Prof Jen Cornish, Academic Director Graduate Research

Exercise COVID-19...and always!



It is so important for us to include exercise as part of our daily routine, especially during COVID lockdown. Everyone knows the physical health benefits of exercise, but it is also so important for keeping our brains happy! It doesn't have to be intense exercise, a walk while listening to your favourite podcast, a jog around your neighbourhood, using a resistance band - whatever it is that you enjoy! Check out [Headspace's website](#) for some tips on building exercise into your daily routine - your brain and research will appreciate it!

Prof Jen Cornish, Academic Director Graduate Research

Scholarships

2022 International HDR Main Scholarship Round -

CLOSING SOON 15 Aug 2021.

The [2022 International HDR Main Scholarship Round](#) is now open and will close on 15 August 2021. Applications are for commencement in the Master of Research Year 2 and Doctor of Philosophy programs.

Relevant information on the round can be found on the [MQ website](#). Additional questions may be emailed to us.

2022 Domestic Scholarship Round – OPEN mid-August

The 2022 Domestic Research Training Program Scholarship (RTP) and Domestic Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) will be open in mid-August. These scholarships are highly competitive and are awarded to only the highest-ranked candidates.

The selection processes for candidates commencing in 2022 will predominantly be based on candidate ratings but will also include considerations of the Research Environment. This may include an evaluation of the alignment of the candidate's project with Macquarie University's research strategy and research priorities, the quality of the supervisory team and the international standing of the research area.

Relevant information on the 2022 domestic round can be found on the [MQ website](#). Additional questions may be [emailed](#) to us.

BPhil/MRes Y1 Scholarship Stipend - Session 2,

2021 - Update

Candidate's eligibility for the BPhil/MRes Y1 Scholarship Stipend will be assessed after Census Date (19 August) and successful candidates will be notified via email with further details. Eligible stipend payments may be processed from the last week of August onwards on a weekly basis. Please remember to follow the instructions in the email carefully to avoid delays.

AIHI Scholarship opportunities

Join our world-class health services research Institute. The Australian Institute of Health Innovation offers a unique program of multidisciplinary research training encompassing information, communication, cognitive and organisational science to support health service and biomedical innovation. You can choose from undergraduate projects or postgraduate programs and scholarships are available.

For further information, see the [Study at AIHI](#) 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

T: +61 02 9850 7111 | [Ask a question](#)

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