A message from our Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate Research

This month, I have invited Dr Rahel Cramer, our Graduate Research Strategic Programs Coordinator (international), to provide the introductory message for Graduate Research Matters – over to you Rahel.

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

When I was offered the opportunity to write the opening for this newsletter, I thought about what I could uniquely share that would resonate and be of interest to you, the readers.

As I am a former international PhD candidate at Macquarie University and a current professional staff member in the Graduate Research Academy, I do think there are a few things I can share. I decided to settle on connection and purpose – even though a bit cliché – because these themes have been a red thread throughout not only my PhD candidature, but also the awkward time post submission and graduation, as well as my current professional working life.

Connection and purpose were utterly important to the successful completion of my PhD candidature. A research degree requires us to work independently and often in solitude as we sit down to read, write, analyse data, and so on. We spend considerable time working on our own on a project that – it may seem – is mostly
relevant to us and our supervisors. This is hugely challenging. It is the connection to peers, supervisors, and the wider research and institutional, as well as university-external, community that leads to success on this journey. They keep us in check, make us re-evaluate our work, reinforce our purpose, or allow us to take a break. I felt very fortunate that I could take advantage of the knowledge and experience of two ever-supportive supervisors and a number of peers who were ahead of me in their candidature; participate in academic and professional training workshops to gain the skills I needed to analyse my data, edit my thesis, or present; work with an experienced psychologist at the wellbeing service to take ownership of my mental health; and also seek advice from staff at the then Higher Degree Research Office (now Graduate Research Academy) a few times to navigate administrative matters concerning my PhD candidature.

Connection and purpose remained crucial once I had completed my PhD. I was not set on what I wanted to do professionally and while this can be a good thing, since academic positions are rare and having an open mind means that one is open to various opportunities, it can entail a feeling of overwhelm. There are so many jobs out there and decisions to make! During this time, it was a collaboration with a former peer and one of her contacts, both PhD graduates from one of our strategic partners, University of Hamburg, that gave me structure and life satisfaction. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic we started working on a new research idea to apply for post-doctoral grants and build our track records. We engaged in weekly zoom-meetings from early 2020, co-published and presented together. We did not succeed in our grant applications in the end. But we all entered other jobs in mid-2021. The point was that connecting with one another and working on a joint project had given us a sense of purpose and value that bridged the gap between completion and our next career step.

Connection and purpose are now equally big themes in my current role as the Strategic Program Coordinator for the Macquarie University’s International Graduate Research Programs i.e., the Cotutelle and Joint PhD and the Master of Research Exchange Program. Only a continuing team effort allows us to work with university-internal and external stakeholders, such as our global partner universities, to offer exciting research and engagement opportunities to candidates and supervisors here at Macquarie. It is literally our job to enable and build connection, and this is only possible by way of connection and a shared sense of purpose with other staff in the GRA.

Dr Rahel Cramer
Strategic Programs Coordinator (International)

If you’re looking to expand your research community, chat with your department.
Personal community? Check out the student run clubs at MQ. They are a great way
to connect with people who share your passions, interests or unique hobbies: 
https://students.mq.edu.au/uni-life/clubs-societies

COVID-19 FAQs for GR Candidates (Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection: latest information – Information for Students – Changes to Session 1 – GR Students

GR Workshops

For a listing of 2022 workshops, please go to MyRDC website. To receive announcements for GR Workshops please ensure you have enrolled in our iLearn site!

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<td>1-30 November 2022</td>
<td>Deep Work Morning Sessions (Online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 November 2022</td>
<td>ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 8: The Discussion</td>
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<td>10 November 2022</td>
<td>Thesis by Publication Workshop (STEMM)</td>
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<td>15 November 2022</td>
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<td>15 November 2022</td>
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<td>17 November 2022</td>
<td>ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series.</td>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>17 November 2022</td>
<td>Graduate Research Writing Workshops (HASS): Applying Critical Thinking in Research</td>
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<td>17-18 November 2022</td>
<td>NVivo for PC - Level One (Online)</td>
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<td>22 November 2022</td>
<td>Developing your presentation voice</td>
<td>Register here</td>
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<td>24 November 2022</td>
<td>Graduate Research Writing Workshops (HASS): Working with Theories in Research</td>
<td>Register here</td>
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<td>26 November 2022</td>
<td>Online Saturday Writing Intensive (Morning Session)</td>
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<td>29 November 2022</td>
<td>Science Writing for Publication Workshop 10: Responding to Reviewers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-31 December 2022</td>
<td>Deep Work Morning Sessions (Online via Zoom)</td>
<td>Register here</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-21 December 2022</td>
<td>Offsite Research Writing Event</td>
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**Announcements**
For current Cotutelle/Joint PhD and MRes Exchange students:

The Strategic Programs Team (Graduate Research Academy) would like to invite all our current Cotutelle/Joint PhD and MRes Exchange students who are on campus to a networking lunch. Please hold the date.

Date: Wednesday, 30 November 2022, 12.00pm - 1.30pm
This event will be part of the GRAfest. Registrations details will be available soon.

Important Dates

1 November
Opening date for 2023/2024 China Scholarship Council applications

30 November
Closing date for S1 2023 Bachelor of Philosophy applications

A full calendar of important dates can be viewed on Graduate Research Important Dates.

News & Information

Save the date – GRAfest 2022
Calling all graduate researchers (HDR candidates, this means you!)

Join the Graduate Research Academy for our annual GRAfest on Wednesday 30th November 2022. Hear from supervisors, fellow researchers, and experienced research trainers for a day of workshops and social connection in a conference dedicated to Macquarie’s graduate research (HDR) community.

Any queries? Email us: gr.conference@mq.edu.au

**Excuse me, what is a DMP?**

In association with Macquarie University’s Research Data Management (RDM) Framework, PhD students commencing their studies after January 2022 are required to plan how they will manage their research data throughout the data lifecycle. This process begins with:

- Undertaking the [RDMOnline training module](#) and the associated quiz; and
- Completing lodgement of a Data Management Plan (DMP) in [FoRA](#) prior to Confirmation of Candidature.
Supporting resources and tools are available on the [Digitally Enabled Research website](#), including step-by-checklists for students and supervisors, mock DMP examples and DMP training videos. To supplement these resources, a [DMP Orientation for HDR Students](#) has been scheduled on 17 November 2022. To register, visit the [DMP Orientation Eventbrite page](#).

Further training is planned during spring and summer. Topics will include Research Compute, Data Carpentry with R, Git/GitHub and Introductory Python. For more details, check the [DER Training and Support page](#) or email [swc@mq.edu.au](mailto:swc@mq.edu.au)

**Graduate Research Supervision**

![Blackboard with mathematical symbols](image)

**Foundations in HDR Supervision**

Have you completed the [Foundations in HDR Supervision](#) course yet? Foundations in HDR Supervision is a mandatory course for all new MQ supervisors and supervisors requiring refresher training every four years. The course consists of three lessons:

**HDR Governance** – In this lesson supervisors will complete an overview of the relevant University rules, policies, and codes that HDR supervisors and graduate researchers are expected to adhere to.

**Respectful Supervisory Relationships** – This lesson focuses on the key principles of respectful supervisory relationships, the University’s commitment to workplace diversity and inclusion, and the University policies that support these practices.

**Cultural Safety** – This lesson provides an overview of the cultural and ethical protocols to consider when supervising Indigenous research candidates or candidates conducting research with Indigenous people or on country. If you are new to Macquarie or supervision, you are required to complete this course before
you can be appointed to a supervisory team.

If you are a current supervisor, you will need to ensure you complete this course every four years to continue supervising HDR candidates. If you are unsure if you have already completed the course, visit the ‘Foundations in HDR Supervision’ website for instructions on how to check your training expiration date in Workday.

Need further information? Contact the Supervision Enhancement team for help: gr.supervision@mq.edu.au

Demystifying Thesis by Publication

Photo by Glenn Carstens-Peters on Unsplash

The Thesis by Publication (TbP) has grown in popularity and is now preferred over the “big book” monograph format in many disciplines. Those tackling a TbP have two challenges: completing a dissertation and getting published in academic journals. Finishing a research degree with both a polished thesis and a strong publication record sets PhD graduates up very well as professional researchers. And did you know that the TbP format is now available for MRes candidates too?!

But you may have some of these niggling thoughts about the TbP: How do I synthesise a bunch of independent papers into a single, coherent body of knowledge? If I co-author with supervisors, how will my examiners know how much I contributed? If all my papers are published in peer-reviewed journals, will my thesis necessarily pass examination without corrections? What if none of my papers is accepted for publication: can I still call it a TbP? To address these and other TbP questions, the Graduate Research Development team will run a Thesis by Publication workshop on Thursday 10 November. Details and registration is via the myRDC – please register either in the Humanities and Social Science or Science stream.
For more information or to ask a question about TbP, please email gr.development@mq.edu.au.

Dr Frank Song
Graduate Research Development Advisor

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