A message from our Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate Research

As you read this final Newsletter of 2021, I will be preparing to board a 17-hour flight to visit family and friends in the UK. As a permanent resident I am lucky that I am able to leave Australia and travel overseas and I hope that many of you will also be fortunate enough to spend time with your family over the holiday season or shortly thereafter.

It has been one hell of a year, an annus horribilis, but the fact that you are here today as a member of our graduate researcher community is a mark of your resilience, flexibility, and commitment to your research studies. At some point in the future, we will look back at this period and reflect on the challenges that have been overcome, and draw some strength from knowing that we were able to adapt and move forward despite them.

On 2nd and 3rd December, the Graduate Research Academy is hosting GRAfest, a graduate research conference with a difference. This will not be an ordinary conference as there will be no scholarly papers, research posters or academic debate. Instead, graduate researchers will join supervisors for an end of year celebration and training event, an opportunity to reconnect with the graduate research community, have a bit of fun and perhaps learn a few things along the way.
Our conference focuses on the themes of resilience and employability with panels, workshops and keynote speakers chosen carefully to address some of the key challenges for our graduate researchers. We have workshops designed to provide guidance on successfully navigating your research degree journey, sessions on communicating the impact of your research effectively and sessions focused on employability and engagement. You will have opportunities to hear from some of our outstanding PhD alumni and supervisors and there will be sessions on resilience and emotional well-being.

Supervisors will not be left out. There will be advice on supervising candidates to successful outcomes and opportunities to share experiences and advice with other supervisors from across all of Macquarie’s faculties. The conference also marks the formal launch of the graduate research academy and this conference is designed to set the tone for the sort of support and training we aspire to deliver.

I wish you all the best for the holiday season, a time to reset, relax and reflect on your extraordinary achievements during a very difficult year. It has been a pleasure being your PVC for Graduate Research over the past year. It really is the very best job in the University and I relish the opportunity to continue to support your endeavors into 2022!

Happy Holidays!

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 – GR Students)

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**GR Workshops**

All workshops can be found on the [MyRDC](https://www.mq.edu.au/),

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
<th>11am-1pm</th>
<th>GR Statistical Consulting Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16WW (Lincoln Building), Room 1.31 (Level 1)</td>
<td>Appointments recommended: contact A/Prof Peter Petocz</td>
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<th>1-17 December 2021</th>
<th>Deep Work Morning Sessions (Online via Zoom)</th>
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[Register here](https://www.mq.edu.au/)
Introduction to LaTex

8-10 December

Register here →

On-campus December mini-writing retreat

15 December

Register now →

ONLINE December mini-writing retreat

16 December

Register here →

To receive announcements for GR Workshops please ensure you have enrolled in our iLearn site!

Announcements

Paid internship

Interested in undertaking a paid Internship as part of your Research program, or while you are waiting for the thesis outcome? APR.Intern is offering 3 month to 6 month internship opportunities throughout the year. Subscribe to APR.Intern Internship Alerts so that you can be notified when

Important Dates

15 December - **HDR Application Portal Opens

Mid December - Domestic HDR Main Scholarship Round and Road to Research scholarship outcomes released
new Internship opportunities are available.

https://aprintern.org.au/subscribe/

The GRA will assist successful applicants, and will apply an Internship unit to your academic transcript. This is an excellent way to build your Industry network, enhance your CV and develop your soft skills.

**The new HDR Application Portal will open on 15 December 2021. If you were unable to submit an application prior to 15 November, you will need to complete a new application on or after 15 December if you wish to be considered for a Higher Degree Research program.**

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

**News & Information**

**GRAfest**

Have you secured your place for GRAfest?

The Macquarie Graduate Research Academy GRAfest Conference will be taking place on the 2-3 December 2021. To secure your place please register via the GRAfest conference website.

The GRAfest is a conference for the research degree community at Macquarie University. Bringing together research candidates and supervisors for an end of year celebration and training event, GRAfest will provide encouragement,
workshops, and reconnection following the recent challenges of working from home under lockdowns.

GRAfest is the first major event held by Macquarie’s new Graduate Research Academy. By gathering together to talk, share, and listen to stories of challenge and success in graduate research, this will be an opportunity to establish new relationships and directions for the Masters and PhD programs at Macquarie. We look forward to hearing from you and joining in the fun together.

For any enquiries, please contact us at gr.conference@mq.edu.au

Help Your Mental Health, Help a Researcher!

There are 2 research projects currently underway that aim to improve mental health in graduate researchers. The first is from Macquarie student Kyle McIndoe, from the School of Psychological Sciences, who is recruiting PhD candidates to help him understand how exercise during candidature may help your mental health and research studies. If you would like to be involved or learn more about the study please email exercisePhD@mq.edu.au.

The second study is being conducted by researcher and counsellor Louise Farrer’s group from ANU, they are trialling an online mental health program for university students. Their project is testing a brief video-based intervention that can be delivered to students remotely to support your mental health. If you would like to know more about this study please go here. Both studies have been checked for ethics clearance.

Learning to be a writer – listen, reflect, and learn
Few of us are born brilliant writers; most of us have to work at becoming so.

Many Graduate Researchers don’t realize that during candidature you will become not only an expert in your field, but also a writer. Becoming a good writer is essential if you want to communicate your research to others. This involves knowing your audience and the hallmarks of what constitutes good writing.

Although at the beginning of candidature, most candidates read for content, it is equally important to develop a habit of reading for style, structure, and linguistic patterns, to identify how other authors have put their paper together. Identifying successful writing techniques in the work of others helps us improve our own writing.

Becoming a better writer requires listening and responding to feedback. While the most obvious source of feedback is your supervisory team, it can be equally beneficial to hear from peers and other members of the academic community.

One way to receive regular feedback on your writing and improve your “noticing” skills is to join a Research Writing Group (RWG). These groups meet regularly and serve in building a Community of Practice. To join a RWG, contact the GR Development Team at gr.development@mq.edu.au. Current RWGs are listed on the GRD iLearn Unit and more can be initiated through expressions of interest.

Dr Francesca Mataraga
Graduate Research Development Advisor, Humanities

Introducing the APAF Proteomics Award for Graduate Research Candidates
As part of the Australian Proteome Analysis Facility's (APAF) ongoing support of Graduate Research Candidates at Macquarie University, we are excited to offer the APAF Proteomics Award in 2022.

Successful applicants will receive in-kind support from APAF, allowing them to collaborate with our scientists to design and perform a proteomics experiment to support their research project. The award is aimed at encouraging students to explore the world of proteomics and to gain experience that contributes to their future research goals.

This award will be open for applications in March 2022, to all Macquarie University Graduate Research Candidates.

To register your interest and be placed on the mailing list to receive an application form when applications open, please email APAFProteomicsAward@mq.edu.au

www.mq.edu.au/apaf

Researchers, do you understand and act in accordance with FAIR Data and/or Open Research practices?
The Digitally Enabled Research team are conducting a short (3-5 min) survey on attitudes and behaviour towards FAIR Data and Open Research.

Since 2016 there has been significant development in the emergence of guidelines for research practice around data and analysis, especially, the Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR) data principles, and the Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) principles, which underpin Open Research practices. At Macquarie University we are trying to understand current researcher culture and behavior around research data. We are particularly interested in whether researchers at Macquarie agree with and behave in accordance with the principles of FAIR Data, and TOP principles. If these terms are unfamiliar to you, you may wish to have a quick look at the links above. This survey is entirely voluntary and completely anonymous.

**Incubator**

Applications are open! We are looking for our next cohort of start-ups. Connect with an endless supply of invaluable world-leading expertise and research, learn all the essential skills through our education program and our experts in residence but most importantly, you will join an amazing and supportive community of like-minded people! Open the door to new possibilities, apply now! Applications close December 2021.

“Summer writing, having a blast...”
Summer is on the horizon, which means it’s time to start summer planning – beach, sun, lots of thesis writing! If writing is on the cards, then consider attending one of the GR Development Team’s upcoming summer writing retreats.

We have 3 different writing retreats; come to one, two or all events (subject to placement availability). In December we are running, back-to-back, an On-campus 1-day Mini Writing Retreat (Wednesday 15th December) and an Online 1-day Mini Writing Retreat on Thursday 16th December. Both mini-writing retreats in December will include ample quiet time to write and the opportunity to book 1:1 consultations with a GR Development Advisor.

We are also excited to announce the 3-day Offsite Research Writing Event which will run Monday 28th February to Wednesday 2nd March, 2022. Based in Katoomba, this unique event will provide graduate research candidates the opportunity to focus on their writing away from the usual everyday distractions. Places are limited and prospective attendees will need to submit an application form as well as register via myRDC. Full details of the event and application form are available on myRDC.

For any questions about any of the writing retreats please contact the GR Development Team at gr.development@mq.edu.au

Scholarships