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University

Office of HDR Training and Partnerships

February 2021

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

The start of a new year is a good time to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the previous 12 months and the opportunities and plans for the year to come. If you are like me, you probably shared a deep desire to get the last year over with, take a break with family and friends and refresh for the year ahead. It was an extraordinarily difficult and unpredictable period, starting with devastating bushfires, a global pandemic and campus closure and ending with the re-emergence of clusters of infection and re-imposed travel restrictions across the country. Whilst there are likely to be many more unforeseen challenges ahead, there is cause for optimism, as Australia continues to respond successfully to ongoing COVID outbreaks in the community, the global economy begins to recover and the distribution of an effective vaccine commences across the world.

It seems remarkable that it was only a year ago, when the first concerns about a new Coronavirus surfaced. There was little sense at that stage how much impact these developments would have on our lives and how much we would have to adapt and modify our plans in response. Everybody has a COVID story to tell – the challenge of separation from family members at home or overseas, the cancelled family celebrations and events that help us to feel connected and provide temporal and cultural markers for our lives, the disruption to research plans and to our working patterns together with reduced financial and job security. The scale of change, the adaptation that has been required and the degree of uncertainty that

people have had to manage is unparalleled.

Somehow, however, we have found the strength, resilience and resources to face these challenges and move forward. Personally, I have realised how supportive our community is, having experienced and observed extraordinary compassion, generosity and support amongst colleagues and friends. It is remarkable how the events of the past year in Australia have served to bring people together - a salient counterpoint to the social division, polarisation and tribalism that has emerged elsewhere in the world. As we move into 2021, more resilient and supportively engaged with one another, I think we are better prepared to respond to the trials of the coming year than the one that has just passed. I'd like to wish you all a very healthy and successful new year and I look forward to supporting you in achieving your goals and aspirations for 2021.

Happy New Year!

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](#).

February	Peer Writing Assistance (PWA) - Zoom	<i>Thu 18 February</i>	Pro Vice-Chancellor's HDR Welcome (New HDR candidates)
	Register here →		Contact →

HDR Announcements



Pro Vice-Chancellor's HDR Welcome, Semester One 2021

Invitations to the Semester One PVC's HDR Welcome will be issued to all new PhD, MPhil, Master of Research and Bachelor of Philosophy candidates via their student email. This online event will be held on Thursday, February 18.

Registrations are essential. If you are a new HDR candidate at MQ and have not received an invitation, please contact hdr.induction@mq.edu.au.

How can I improve my mental health if I can't see a therapist?

For many HDR candidates, the demands on their time and other commitments can make it challenging to seek professional help for support with their mental health.

Student Wellbeing offers some alternatives that can help.

The MQ Wellbeing app gives good information, links to helpful resources and podcasts, along with support to

HDR Mentors: Meet & Mingle

Are you a HDR student? Want to meet other HDR students?

If this is you then come and join HDR Mentors for our monthly informal Meet and Mingle sessions via Zoom! Feel free to relax and connect with fellow HDR students all in the comfort of your own home. You are also welcome to have lunch while zooming!

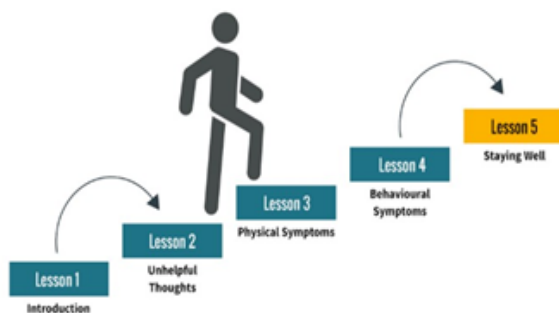
For details about how to join, please visit the Meet & Mingle [webpage](#).

Challenge yourself to be more engaging!

Ever found that when you start to talk about your research friends and family's eyes glaze over and they struggle to stay awake? Your fascination just doesn't seem to rub off on others. A good way to overcome this common issue is to enter one of the many communication competitions, such as the [3MT](#), [Visualise Your Thesis](#), [FameLab](#) and even [Dance your PhD](#)!

track your goals and wellbeing habits. It's free for Android and iOS.

The UniWellbeing Course is a 5-week program with online lessons and resources supported by weekly phone calls with a psychologist. The course teaches evidence-based skills and strategies to help with stress, anxiety and depression. To register your interest, complete the form [here](#).



These competitions present a daunting challenge – 3 years of work into 3 minutes or under. However, they do force you to imagine the most engaging research story to capture a general audience. Participation helps build your networks by increasing your exposure. The exposure and experience you gain will often boost success at securing future funding. And you might even win prize money for your efforts! To hear more benefits from previous competitors listen to [the Communication Panel](#) that MQ HDR Support & Development recorded last year.

If you're from a STEM subject, your next chance to compete is approaching – [FAMELAB 2021](#) entries are open until the 25th February. Don't hesitate – just do it – you can only gain from the experience.

For more support and information about FameLab or any of the other competitions mentioned, please contact hdrlearningskills@mq.edu.au.

Dr Adèle Thomas, HDR Learning Advisor (Science)



Webinar: Professionals with a PhD - Dr. Paul Hogan,

PhD scholarship in Melanoma research

Executive Director, Office of Corporate Engagement at MQ.



In this webinar series we are focussing on graduates with a PhD and the types of work they are doing outside of traditional research roles in universities. We want to provide real examples of PhD graduates working at Macquarie and beyond to showcase the range of roles being done by people with a PhD, as well as the people who do them. We are hoping these webinars will engage PhD candidates and raise their awareness of the possible career opportunities within many sectors, following the completion of their PhD. In our next webinar we are delighted to have Dr Paul Hogan, Executive Director, [Office of Corporate Engagement](#).

Thursday 25 February 2021 12:00 PM to 01:00 PM

Register for the webinar with this [link](#).

eResearch Training 2021 Kickoff

Melanoma has been described as a 'national cancer' with Australia having the highest rate in the world. The Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI) has a fantastic opportunity for a PhD scholarship in this field, training in implementation science - an increasingly sought-after skill set in the health and medical sector. Our work spans the melanoma care continuum from screening and prevention, through diagnosis and treatment, to supportive and psychosocial care with a focus on how to get evidence-based interventions into widespread use in the real world.

Applications close **28 February**. [Find out more](#).

Peer Writing Assistance sessions are still available for 2021!

The Data Science and eResearch team is pleased to announce a series of webinars and online workshops to kick off training for 2021. The online event will run from 15 to 18 February in half-day blocks. Topics include Preregistration, Research Planning, REDCap Use Cases, Git/GitHub, Analysis Using Mixed Effects Model, and Data Visualisation Using R and Tableau.

Places for some sessions are limited, so anyone interested in the event is encouraged to contact the team by emailing swc@mq.edu.au at the earliest possible time.

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 visit [here](#).

HDR Stories



MQ Higher Degree Research Supervision Associate Fellows

Congratulations to our HDR Supervision Associate Fellows! It has been a long time coming due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we finally had our face-to-face celebration

for the 2019 Awardees of the HDR Supervision Associate Fellowships!

Our Fellows were required to demonstrate an understanding of specific aspects of effective research training, learning support methods and student learning from at least 2 of 4 dimensions [Engagement and Influence; Knowledge and Engagement with Supervision Pedagogy; Governance and Organisation; Effectiveness]. There were 11 successful applicants and each Fellow is highlighted below. We thank them all for their support of research training for our HDR candidates.

Dr Alissa Beath from the Department of Psychology demonstrates her Supervisory excellence through the dimension of Engagement & Influence, where she has worked hard to encourage a research group meeting in Health Psychology to provide intellectual support to candidates and academics in the field. She also demonstrates excellence through the domain of Governance and Organisation where she is a key leader in the teaching of statistical analysis and use of software to students, in collaboration with HDR learning skills.

Dr Ann Carrigan from the Department of Psychology demonstrates her Supervisory excellence through the dimension of Engagement & Influence, where she encourages her students to engage in early and ongoing portfolio and career development. She also demonstrates excellence in the dimension of Governance and Organisation where she fosters strong mentoring, candidature planning and learning skills support.

Dr Kate Churruca from the Australian Institute of Health Innovation demonstrates her Supervisory excellence through the dimension of Engagement & Influence, where she insists her students understand the importance of developing a CV and portfolio, and also professional, scholarly and digital networks. She has also demonstrated excellence in the dimension of Effectiveness through the encouragement of student publications, where she has successfully enabled the publication of more than 7 thesis articles and encourages collaboration with her students on her own publications.

Dr Aron Downie from the Department of Chiropractic demonstrates his Supervisory excellence through the dimensions of Engagement & Influence, where he encourages students to utilise a range of digital communication/storage strategies, and in Governance and Organisation where he promotes engagement in appropriate research tools, training and practices.

Dr Hazel Jenkins from the Department of Chiropractic demonstrates her Supervisory excellence through the dimensions of Engagement & Influence, where she encourages student engagement with digital platforms for networking and research exposure, and in Governance and Organisation where she has developed

a HDR progress checklist to ensure candidates are on track and are also aware of opportunities relative to their candidature.

Dr Sinead Keavney from the Department of Molecular Sciences demonstrates her Supervisory excellence through the dimension of Engagement & Influence, where she encourages students to develop their CV and portfolio, and participation in key networking and engagement opportunities. She has also demonstrated excellence in the dimension of Effectiveness through the encouragement of student publications, where she has successfully enabled the publication of more than 6 research articles.

Dr Janet Long from the Australian Institute of Health Innovation demonstrates her Supervisory excellence through the dimensions of Governance and Organisation, where she has developed a checklist for guiding students through ethics, governance and other requirements for research activities in health settings, and in the dimension of Effectiveness where she encourages her students to utilise decision-support tools and feedback and reflection sessions in their research.

Dr Jessica McLean from the Department of Geography and Planning demonstrates her Supervisory excellence through the dimension of Knowledge and Engagement with Supervision Pedagogy, where she has initiated a blog writing workshop for HDR candidates. She has also demonstrated excellence in the dimension of Effectiveness through the encouragement of student publications, progression and completion.

Dr Rimante Ronto from the Department of Health Systems and Populations demonstrates his Supervisory excellence in the dimensions of Government and Organisation, where he initiates and promotes candidate management planning and support, and in Engagement and Influence where he supports students to develop their CV and portfolio and their professional, scholarly and digital networks.

Dr Janet Van Eersel from the Department of Biomedical Sciences demonstrates her Supervisory excellence in the dimension of Governance and Organisation, where she encourages candidate management planning, the development of social networks and professional skills. She has also demonstrated excellence in the dimension of Effectiveness through the encouragement of student publications, where she has successfully enabled the publication of several research articles.

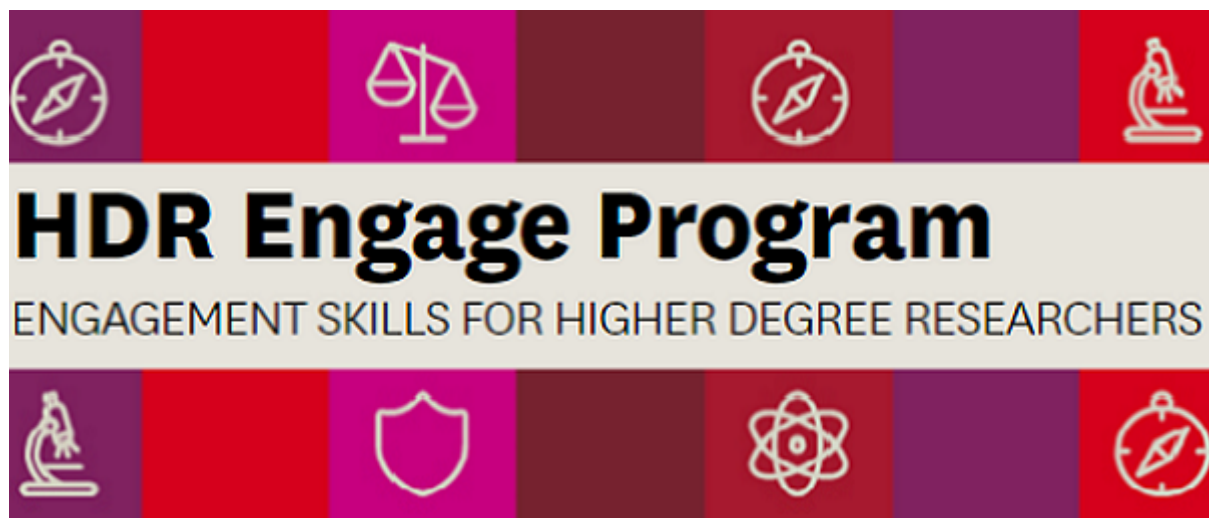
Dr Robyn Westcott from the Learning Skills Group demonstrates her commitment to Supervisor excellence in the dimension of Knowledge and Engagement with Supervision Pedagogy, where she has developed a research writing and mentoring workshop for HDR supervisors, and through engagement in HDR supervision enhancement workshops and training opportunities.

Congratulations all.

Dr Karen Laughton, Convenor Supervision Enhancement Program

Prof Jen Cornish, Academic Director, HDR.

(Image above) Professor Simon Handley (PVC, OHDTRP) with 5 of our fabulous HDR Supervision Associate Fellows. From L-R: Dr Ann Carrigan, Dr Sinead Keavney, Prof Simon Handley, Dr Alissa Beath, Dr Janet Long and Dr Janet Van Eersel.



HDR Engage Program: Engagement Skills for Higher Degree Researchers

Twenty-three MQ HDR candidates have recently successfully completed the MQ HDR Engage program at MQ, a six week program delivered for the first time from October to December 2020. This engagement program was a collaboration between OHDTRP, MQ Corporate Engagement and MQ Commercialisation and Innovation office.

The MQ HDR Engage Program aims to enhance knowledge, increase confidence and develop practical skills for researchers to initiate and build collaborative relationships with partners. The program included six group sessions and one-on-one coaching with our highly regarded facilitator, Jane Cockburn from Kairos Now. Participants were also able to benefit from the insights of guest speakers from industry and academia, helping them discover pathways for future career opportunities.

We would like to thank our HDR candidates for participating, our colleagues at MQ that worked together to make this happen and Jane Cockburn for a very impactful

program.

Catherine Ennis, HDR Industry Engagement and Placements Manager



Farewell and thank you

After being the face of the HDR Mentors program for five years, Dr Mo Haque is starting a new chapter in life. Mo joined the first batch of the MRes Cohort in 2014 as an international student from Bangladesh and successfully completed his doctorate in 2019.

Mo often speaks about his HDR experience, especially when he started his very lonely research journey. So when the HDR Mentors program initiated, he jumped at the chance to join it. Mo has never looked back since then.

Throughout these years, I have seen Mo grow and flourish as a very shy young man to a lively, positive and confident individual. If you have attended any of the HDR Mentors' workshop, you cannot overlook Mo. His compassion and his never-ending encouragements towards his fellow HDR candidates resulted in his own fan base.

It is a shame to see him go but on the other hand, I am very happy that he is venturing out to conquer his next goal. Let's always remember Mo's mantra... *"Don't worry, everything will be alright. I have been there and I know. You are doing well, keep going."*

Thank you Mo, for everything.

Kim Tan, Program Manager, HDR Experience, Engagement and Mentorship

-Mo, we will miss you tremendously and wish you all the best for your future endeavours! Thank you.

Prof Jen Cornish, Academic Director HDR and the S&D team

(Image above) Dr Mo Haque, HDR Mentors.



30 seconds with Catherine Murphy

What is your role in the office of the PVC, HDRTP?

My role is HDR Manager, Candidature Operations. I manage the teams who look after the HDR lifecycle: from application, offer, enrolment, changes to candidature through to examination.

What brought you to this role?

I began at Macquarie in the HDRTP Office as the Cotutelle Coordinator as I had lots of previous experience in international partnerships at UNSW. In 2017 I applied for the HDR Manager role as I really wanted to work more closely with the team and further develop my research administration knowledge and team management skills.

What is your favourite aspect of the role?

It's challenging and ever changing. Probably my favourite aspect though, is seeing my team move from strength to strength. The work they did in 2020 was phenomenal – they were dealing with situations we had never seen before, as well as balancing professional and personal challenges associated with COVID – and we all came out stronger for it!

Catherine Murphy, HDR Manager, Candidature Operations

(Image above) Catherine Murphy, HDR Manager, Candidature Operations



Twenty things I wish I'd known before I started my PhD

This is an interesting article from 2018 from the journal *Nature*, written by Lucy A. Taylor, University of Oxford, UK. Lucy shares a lot of relevant insights into her research journey that you may all identify with, or appreciate, going forward. Her last statement to celebrate your successes and enjoy yourself is key, and it's important not to beat yourself up if something isn't working in your research – we all go through this, it's part of the PhD process. You can find her article [here](#).

Prof Jen Cornish, Academic Director, HDR.

(Image above) Lucy A Taylor, PhD, University of Oxford, 2018. Credit: Susanne Vogel

Scholarships



ThinkSwiss Research Scholarships: Asia-Pacific – call for applications

The program provides grants to Research Master students enrolled at Australian universities for a 3-month research internship at a Swiss university (value ca. AUD 7,000 for 3 months). Students can schedule their research stay anytime between 1 May 2021 and 14 February 2022. **The start date must be no later than 15 November 2021.** MQ MRes candidates who wish to apply must submit an application directly to ThinkSwiss. They must also submit an [Internship Coversheet](#) to the OHDRTP as soon as possible, and note that any research-related travel approval is subject to change in accordance with COVIDSafe approval and travel restrictions at the time. All essential information is provided [here](#). Applications close 28 Feb 2021.

Dr Louise Dwyer, Deputy Director HDR Governance and Operations

HDR Dynamic Duo



Dr Danijel Džino

Senior Lecturer

Department of Ancient History

How did you come to know each other?

Ewan took some of my undergraduate classes (Greek Religion, World Archaeology, Archaeology of Dalmatia) and also attended excavations in Croatia in 2018 that I am co-director of.

What are your shared interests?



Ewan Coopey

MRes Candidate

Department of Ancient History

How did you come to know each other?

After taking several of Danijel's units in the first two years of my undergraduate, I went on an Archaeological excavation he co-leads in Croatia – the Varvaria-Breberium-Bribir project. Here we got to know each other a lot better and establish the foundations for my MRes

I guess we both share thirst for knowledge about the past.

What do you each bring to the professional relationship?

In the field of Ancient History HDR supervision is in large majority of cases a process of teaching on the highest possible level. I suppose that, in my role of a teacher, I have opportunity to transmit to Ewan my knowledge of Dalmatian history, archaeology, geography, politics, personalities of scholars, respect for the existing scholarship and all the other tricks of trade.

What do you appreciate most about Ewan?

Ewan has respect for scholarly authority but also audacity to question it. The most impressive is his persistence to address Croatian literature in the original language, which is very rare gift amongst researchers born as native English (or German/French/Italian) speakers.

What have you gained through your collaboration?

My research is different from most of my colleagues, as I deal with the past of my homelands Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which makes it in some part very personal. The supervision of Ewan enables me to make impact on shaping (hopefully) a future scholar who will be able to understand and appreciate the ancient past of this part of the world but also see it from different perspective than myself.

supervision.

What are your shared interests?

Besides the obvious ones (ancient and late antique history/archaeology) we both appreciate a nice cold pivo (beer).

What do you each bring to the professional relationship?

Danijel brings, amongst other things, his vast (and I mean vast) knowledge of the source material and relevant scholarship. I would like to think I bring new methods of engaging with this material – including more technologically engaged methods, as well as methods informed by research conducted in other areas of Roman scholarship. In turn, I would say this allows Danijel and myself to ask new questions of the Southeastern European archaeological and historical record.

What do you appreciate most about Danijel?

I am most grateful for Danijel's openness to listen to my ideas and his ability to consider me a colleague. He makes time for me and my ideas, and this is very important for a supervisor in my opinion. Moreover, I also enjoy his ability to take a step back and have a laugh from time to time.

What have you gained through your collaboration?

I have gained a deeper appreciation of the real breadth of local scholarship that exists in Southeastern Europe regarding its historical past. This has in turn made me more appreciative of the vast amounts of time and effort scholars across Europe have put into researching

From this relationship, what do you think you will take with you into your professional/research future?

I do not know – we did not finish with each other yet as Ewan still needs to write his PhD.

their ancient past and I now endeavour to engage with these scholars and their research in my future studies and career.

From this relationship, what do you think you will take with you into your professional/research future?

I think I will, in the future, make sure to be as open to new questions and ideas as Danijel is of mine. But, as I am sure Danijel will note, I still have a PhD to embark on, so this duo is not over yet...

(Image above) Dr Danijel Džino and Ewan Coopey

We are always keen to receive contributions to the HDR Dynamic Duos section of this newsletter. The people featured might be... HDR candidate & supervisor, HDR Mentor & HDR Mentee, HDR Candidate and Industry placement supervisor. If this is of interest to you, please head to our [website](#) for further information on how to contribute.



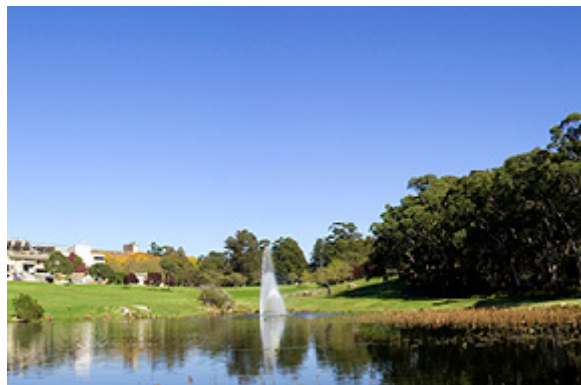
Cotutelle and International Opportunities



Higher Degree Research Scholarships



HDR Support & Development



My Research Program

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