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MACQUARIE
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Office of HDR Training and Partnerships

June 2021

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

In my career, I have been privileged to have had opportunities to teach, to lead research groups, supervise HDR candidates, lead large academic schools and Faculties and to manage a central university function. I have worked with extraordinarily gifted professional colleagues and whilst at times we can all get frustrated by administration, I have also developed a really good understanding of how a University works and how important and committed our professional staff are

in delivering the very best outcomes for students, researchers and academic colleagues.

I recently listened to a Ted Talk by A J Jacobs in which he reflected on getting frustrated that his morning coffee, from a local coffee shop, did not arrive quickly enough. His frustration and subsequent soul searching led him to reflect on the importance of gratitude; gratitude to the Barista, who was juggling multiple, complex orders from his uptown clientele, but also to those people, without whom his morning coffee would not be possible. He proceeded to personally thank, much to their surprise, more than 1000 deeply committed people who were passionate about their jobs, including the coffee buyer, the warehouse pest controller, the designer of the coffee cup lid, the coffee farmer in Columbia and even the steel workers in Indiana who made the steel for the farmer's tractor.

The message in this Ted Talk is simple. When things are done well, we rarely consider all the people who contribute to delivering them, but those people are as committed to ensuring you get your cup of coffee in the morning, as the barista in the coffee shop. My professional colleagues across the University are similarly passionate about supporting you in your HDR journey and ensuring your success. I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary work they have done over the past year in supporting you through such difficult circumstances. What our professional staff contribute is critical to the broader success of the University and whilst their contributions may not always be visible, they merit our deepest gratitude.

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	HDR Statistical Consulting Service Email A/Prof Peter Petocz →	4 June	Building Teaching Capabilities - Part II Case Studies Register here →
10-11 June	NVivo for PC - Level Two (Zoom) Register here →	10 June	MQBS Research Training Modules: Applying critical thinking in research Register here →
17 June	Thesis Formatting Workshop (For PC) - Zoom Register here →	17 June	Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 9: Writing the Abstract and Title Register here →

17 June

ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 9: Writing the Abstract and Title

[Register here](#) →

21 June

Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 10: Responding to Reviewers

[Register here](#) →

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[Register here](#) →

24 June

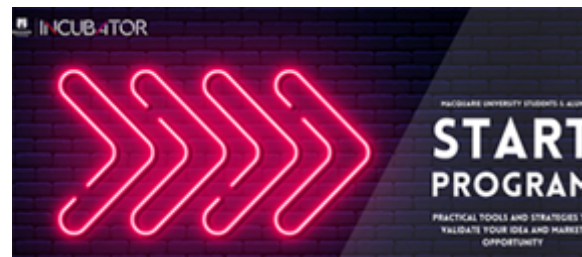
MQBS Research Training Modules: Working with theories

[Register here](#) →

HDR Announcements



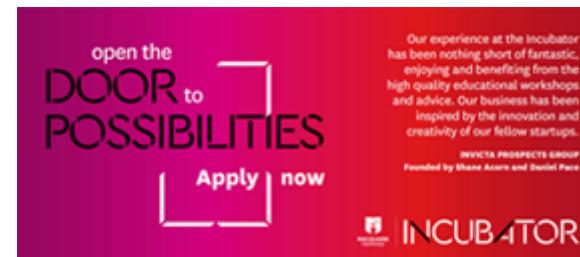
Join the MQ Incubator's START Program



Think you've got an idea that has commercial potential? Take your idea to the next level!

Join the Incubator's START Program and learn practical skills to validate your idea and market opportunity. **Open for all MQ Students and MQ Alumni.** Find out more [here](#).

Become a resident in the MQ Incubator!



In a vibrant and accessible space where expertise and ideas flow freely, MQ Incubator's resident members gain the confidence and support they need to establish and scale, in a safe atmosphere where true growth arises from sharing the wins, lessons and challenges.

Program dates: July 13th-15th

Apply [here](#) Applications close June 30th

Applications are now open to become a resident in the [MQ Incubator](#).

Application link can be found [here](#) and will close on June 14th.

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 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](#).

Important Dates

7 June – Session 1 exams start (BPhil/MRes Y1)

25 June – Session 1 exams end (BPhil/MRes Y1)

1 July - MRes Y2 commences for candidates starting MRes Yr2 in Session 2

8 July - Session 1 Results Published

23 July - Payment due date for all BPhil/MRes Y1 candidates

25 July - Payment due date for all MRes Y2/PhD candidates

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

HDR News & Information

The 2021 Research Excellence Awards are closing soon!



Applications close **at 11:59 pm on 4 June 2021**

Don't miss out - you only have a few days left - apply now!

The 2021 Research Excellence Awards will recognise the outstanding performance of Macquarie HDR Supervisors and HDR candidates in their pursuit of research excellence.

Current and former HDR candidates and HDR Supervisors are encouraged to apply for the following categories:

- The **Excellence in Higher Degree Research Award** which recognises outstanding research undertaken by a current or former higher degree research candidate in both [HASS](#) and [STEMM](#) based disciplines.
- The [Excellence in Higher Degree Research Supervision – Supervisor of the Year Award](#) which recognises Macquarie's outstanding HDR supervisors who enable our HDR candidates to achieve their highest potential.

Application guidelines can be found on the [Research Excellence Awards Webpage](#). Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Questions related to the guidelines and application process should be directed to dvcr.researchexcellence@mq.edu.au

Be part of celebrating Macquarie's research excellence – Apply now!

Wanna know what I really think?



(Image 3: Photo by [Volodymyr Hryshchenko](#) on [Unsplash](#))

Getting feedback on something we've sweated over, something we're attached to, something we identify with is SCARY! Thesis chapters and journal article drafts fall squarely into that category. It takes guts to hand a text like this to someone whose very task is to point out its shortcomings.

But remember: getting critical feedback from an outsider (not just from your inner critic, which is not the best judge!) is the most effective way to improve a text. And the sooner you do it and the wider your pool of thoughtful reviewers, the better for your text and for you as a research writer.

That's not to say that all feedback is useful or valid. Or that merely getting feedback does anything magic to lift a text.

So, how do you elicit the most useful feedback from your supervisor(s) and others? And what are some mature and effective ways to hear and respond to criticism? We've released three short [How do I...? guides](#) that answer these very questions: **Get constructive feedback from my supervisor(s); Make the most of feedback;** and **Respond to reviewer comments.** [Check them out](#) today.

And why not consider joining a [research writing group](#) with other HDRs to hear what your peers really think of each other's drafts, and to get and give some of your own. Email hdrlearningskills@mq.edu.au with your program (MRes/MPhil/PhD) and department.

Dr Juliet Lum, Head, HDR Learning Skills

Wellbeing for Research Candidates iLearn page



(Image 4: Photo by [Max van den Oetelaar](#) on [Unsplash](#))

Completing a research degree can at times become stressful as you try to manage competing demands, deal with fatigue, and cope with other issues that arise during a research project that takes years to complete.

The [Wellbeing for Research Candidates iLearn page](#) contains a range of wellbeing tools to help you navigate your journey, including recordings of Wellbeing workshops that you may have missed and links to other online resources for Wellbeing.

Make sure you also check out [myRDC](#) and the [HDR Mentors](#) for details of upcoming Wellbeing workshops for HDR students.

OHD RTP Support and Development team

30 seconds with Juliet Lum



(Image 5) Dr Juliet Lum, Head, HDR Learning Skills

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

I'm the Head of HDR Learning Skills. I oversee the research skills program for HDR and MRes candidates at Macquarie and work with a team of creative, highly-skilled, and empathetic HDR Learning Advisors. Our goal is to make sure HDRs are well resourced, well supported, and well informed as they prepare their research projects and share their findings.

What brought you to this role?

Prior to this role, I was an Academic Writing Specialist in the Faculty of Business and Economics (now, MQBS). As I knew very little about “money stuff”, I was constantly asking PhD students to explain things to me as if I were an 8-year-old (reflecting my actual expertise in their fields!). I learnt a lot from the students, and hopefully, they learnt something from me about effective research communication too. In 2012, there was a need for a campus-wide research communications teacher, especially

for MQ's new MRes program, so it was time for me to be exposed to more areas of ignorance!

What is your favourite aspect of the role?

Seeing students excited about their research topics. When this excitement requires re-ignition, I can stand in as a genuinely curious inquirer, since I'm naïve about most PhD topics and demanding when it comes to clarity and details. I also love running HDR writing retreats, seeing students enjoy the natural high that comes with increased productivity and sharing a few intense but fun days working alongside peers.

Dr Juliet Lum, Head, HDR Learning Skills

Editor's note: To hear more about one of our candidate's research topic, check out the May ['This Week'](#) newsletter and read the '10 questions with ...' article with one of our PhD candidates, Daniele Carlesso.

Scholarships

ARC Linkage Collaborative grant between MQU, UQ and Bondi

Engineering cyanobacteria for high-value flavours and fragrances production PhD Project Description

Distinguished Professor Ian Paulsen's laboratory in the Department of Molecular Sciences at Macquarie University has funding for a PhD candidate to contribute to

work related to engineering the metabolism of cyanobacteria for industrial production of bioproducts with high commercial potential. Due to their native metabolism and capacity to express complex plant proteins, cyanobacteria represent an attractive Synthetic Biology platform for the biomanufacturing of high value products, such as terpene pathway metabolites used for flavours and fragrances. In order to engineer a new generation of improved cyanobacteria production strains, the PhD student will work on physiological strain characterisation and multi-omics studies at MQU that will be used for building metabolic models in collaboration with researchers at University of Queensland to inform large-scale genomic modifications to strains by industry collaborator Bondi.

This project provides an excellent opportunity for a PhD student to work closely with a multi-disciplinary team under expert supervision and industrial guidance to develop an understanding of the complete characterise-model-engineer cycle from culturing and physiological analysis, through multi-omic analytics and genome-scale modelling, to advanced model-guided strain engineering. The training uniquely prepares the PhD candidate for working in industry through a six-month-long internship opportunity at Bondi, one of Australia's leading Synthetic Biology start-ups.

The PhD program at MQU is a 3-year, full-time equivalent candidature that requires the submission of a written thesis of original research carried out during this period. For further information, see the scholarship details on our [Scholarship website](#).

HDR scholarships closing soon!

Scholarship name

[Developing Integrated Microdevices for Single-cell Analysis](#)

[Load monitoring and injury risk identification of military personnel using a machine learning approach](#)

[The impact of micro gender biases on women's careers](#)

[Internet Privacy and Security Analytics](#)

[Project Specific Scholarship for "Perovskite and quantum dot opto-electronic devices"](#)

[Multicultural Australian English: The new voice of Sydney – International](#)

Don't forget to check out the [Scholarship Search](#) webpage regularly for new HDR scholarships.



[Cotutelle and International Opportunities](#)



[Higher Degree Research Scholarships](#)



HDR Support & Development



My Research Program

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