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University

Office of HDR Training and Partnerships

May 2021

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

These are strange times for the sector and many Universities are in the process of re-imagining what Higher Education will look like in the future. The federal government has not been shy in voicing its opinions, aligning its aspirations for HE with broader objectives linked to a growth in commercialisation and innovation, STEM expertise, graduate employability and economic growth. Whilst these objectives are undoubtedly important, too much emphasis on outcomes ignores the intrinsic value of a University. A University is not just a means to an end; its purpose should be linked to more than the delivery of outcomes that may have value in the present, but with no intrinsic importance independent of the objectives it delivers. Instead, the value of a University lies in engendering, developing and supporting reason, inquiry and open debate, where scholars and students are free to speculate and explore ideas and thoughts independent of application, opinion or direction.

My PhD topic was on human judgment, principally focused on how people understand and reason with logical arguments containing the word, 'or'. I was interested in the psychological equivalence between 'or' and 'and' and whether this aligned with De-Morgans's law, a logical rule that is a key component of natural deduction systems. My motivation was to use this approach as a means of testing alternative theories of how we reason. My own research and that of my students is unapologetically theoretical. We seek to understand how people think and which theoretical models are best positioned to explain the empirical data. My work is basic

research, the sort of activity that is uniquely supported by a University system that values discovery in its own right through its contribution to advancing knowledge and understanding. Whilst the future for Universities will undoubtedly involve a renewed focus on innovation and industry engagement that will extend to research degrees, a PhD will continue to be judged solely on the unique contribution it makes to our understanding of the world. It is a privilege to be able to support candidates in these endeavours and it requires no apology.

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 →	5-6 May	NVivo For Mac (v12) - Zoom Register now →
13 May	MQBS HDR academic writing workshops: Delivering an oral presentation of research Register now →	17 May	Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 6: The Introduction Register now →
17 May	ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 6: The Introduction	21 May	Thesis Formatting Workshop (For PC) - Zoom Register now →

[Register now](#) →

27 May

**MQBS HDR
academic writing
workshops: Every
research article is
written from the
basics: Paragraphs,
sentences, and
words.**

[Register now](#) →

27 May

**Science Writing for
Publication Workshop
Series. Workshop 7:
Writing the Methods**

[Register now](#) →

27 May

**ONLINE Science
Writing for
Publication
Workshop Series.
Workshop 7: Writing
the Methods**

[Register now](#) →

28 May

**Building Research
Capabilities - Survey
Research workshop**

[Register now](#) →

1 June

**Science Writing for
Publication
Workshop Series.
Workshop 8: The
Discussion**

[Register now](#) →

1 June

**ONLINE Science
Writing for Publication
Workshop Series.
Workshop 8: The
Discussion**

[Register now](#) →

4 June

**Building Teaching
Capabilities - Part II
Case Studies**

[Register now](#) →

10 – 11 June

**NVivo for PC - Level
Two (Zoom)**

[Register now](#) →

10 June

**MQBS Research
Training Modules:
Applying critical
thinking in research**

[Register now](#) →

17 June

**Thesis Formatting
Workshop (For PC) -
Zoom**

[Register now](#) →

17 June

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

[Register now](#) →

17 June

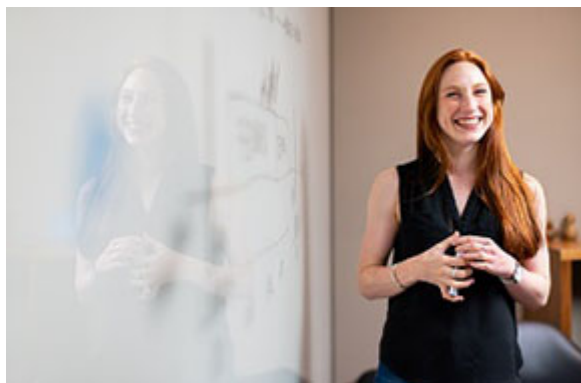
**ONLINE Science
Writing for Publication
Workshop Series.
Workshop 9: Writing
the Abstract and Title**

[Register now](#) →

HDR Announcements



Beginning to Teach program



Interested in tutoring at Macquarie?
Never taught a class in your life, or your
teaching skills a bit rusty?

If so, the **[Beginning to Teach \(BTT\)
program](#)** is for you! Registrations are
open now for the midyear course,
running from 28 June to 19 July.

Apply for 2021 Univative



Want to enhance your employability by
working on a real-life project for a real
company?

Participate and represent Macquarie
University in **Univariate 2021**, an inter-
university consulting competition
between 8 Australian universities over a

This online, [4-module course](#) takes about 12 hours to complete, is free of charge for Macquarie staff and students, and covers fundamentals of teaching at university: understanding student learning, planning and facilitating classes, assessment and feedback.

Places are limited, so [register](#) today!

Enquiries:

professional.learning@mq.edu.au

Photo credit: ThisisEngineering RAEng on Unsplash

4-week period in your winter break.

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

More info is available [here](#). [Registration is here](#).

Read about the experience of a MQ PhD candidate who participated in 2020 Univariate in the [October 2020 issue](#) of the HDR Matters newsletter.

Important Dates

10 – 31 May – Offers made for MRes admission for session 2 2021

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

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

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

Progressing MRes Candidates

MRes candidates who have recently submitted their thesis and would like to be considered for admission to PhD must contact their Faculty HDR Admin for further advice about how to progress. Candidates are not required to submit a new application via the eApplication portal.

Progression into the PhD program will be based on your MRes final grade, availability of resources and appropriate supervision.

MRes Thesis Submission Drop-in Sessions

The Office of Higher Degree Research Training and Partnerships (OHD RTP) holds regular drop-in sessions for MRes candidates who require assistance with preparing for their thesis submission.

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

Candidates can book in for a 15-minute session with a member of the examination team to discuss any concerns with submission requirements and walk through the submission process.

- Date: Every Tuesday and Friday
- Time: 9.00 – 11.00am
- Location: OHDRTP, Level 2 -16 Wally's Walk

To book a session, send the [HDR Examinations team](#) a calendar invite via Outlook 365. Include your full name, Student ID, degree and 'Drop-in session' in the calendar invite.

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](#).

HDR Stories

Research Excellence Awards



Professor Bruce Downton and Stephanie Rayner, 2019 Award Recipient HDR STEMM



Professor Bruce Downton and Nicholas Everett, 2019 Award Recipient HDR HASS

In 2021, Macquarie University will acknowledge the important connection between research and learning and teaching by celebrating the Research Excellence Awards and the Vice Chancellor's Learning and Teaching Awards under the one banner of the Academic Staff Awards.

These awards recognise the success of our Macquarie HDR supervisors and HDR candidates making substantial contributions to research excellence and impact.

In 2019, the **Excellence in Higher Degree Research Awards** were awarded to:

STEMM – Stephanie Rayner, Faculty of Medicine Health and Human Sciences

HASS – Nicholas Everett, Faculty of Human Sciences

This **Excellence in Higher Degree Research Award** recognises outstanding research undertaken by a current or former higher degree research candidate in both HASS and STEMM based disciplines. The research activity can be in any field and must have been developed at Macquarie University in the past four years. Applicants who studied part-time and who can demonstrate research outcomes achieved prior to 2017 as being related to the delivery of their degree post-2017, are eligible to apply.

Current and former HDR candidates are encouraged to apply for this category.

The Excellence in Higher Degree Research Supervision – Supervisor of the Year Award recognises Macquarie's outstanding HDR supervisors who enable our HDR candidates to achieve their highest potential. To be eligible, you must have supervised HDR candidates at Macquarie for a minimum period of 5 years. Supervisors must also be up to date in their HDR supervisor training as evidenced by their HR training transcript from Workday.

HDR Supervisors are encouraged to apply for the category.

The Awards are now open, applications close **at 11:59 pm on 4 June 2021**, so start your application now! Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

How can I apply? You can complete an application form available from the [Research Excellence Awards Webpage](#)

Where can I find out more? Application guidelines including categories and key dates can be found on the [Research Excellence Awards Webpage](#). 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!

Choose your own adventure in your first year of MRes



Photo by [Christopher Sardegna](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Want to dip your toe in the research rapids before you plunge into MRes Year 2? If so, consider taking the S2 unit [MRES7001: PACE for Research](#)!

This 10-credit point unit gives you the opportunity to collaborate directly with experienced researchers in a university or industry setting. With support from staff and peers at Macquarie and 1:1 supervision by an active senior researcher, you will engage in an authentic research project that produces tangible deliverables and will boost your CV and professional network.

Keen to find out more? Contact Juliet or Catherine as soon as possible on the details below.

Unit Convenor: Dr Juliet Lum - juliet.lum@mq.edu.au

HDR Industry Engagement and Placements Manager: Catherine Ennis - catherine.ennis@mq.edu.au

Dr Juliet Lum, Head, HDR Learning Skills

Catherine Ennis, HDR Industry Engagement and Placements Manager

How do I ...?



Photo by [Amy Hirschi](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Ever needed some quick-to-read, reliable, Macquarie-specific advice to get you moving forward in your research journey?

HDR Learning Skills' "How Do I...?" guides may just be what you're after! We've just released a set of 10 one-pager guides on topics that we often get asked about.

Drowning in literature you've been reading all year? Not sure how to highlight your research contribution? Presenting at your first academic conference? Interested in becoming a Peer Writing Assistant? Need your thesis edited?

"How do I...?" guides cover all these topics and more!

Peruse and download the "How do I...?" guides from the [HDR Learning Skills Online Resources page](#). Email hdrlearningskills@mq.edu.au to suggest other topics you'd like us to cover!

Dr Juliet Lum, Head, HDR Learning Skills

HDR Mentors presents: BBQ/Picnic



As HDR candidates, we can understand that the research journey can be lonely and sometimes boring, with less opportunity to meet colleagues. The HDR mentors' social event provides a platform for candidates to connect and make the HDR journey more enjoyable.

As part of the mentor's social events, we organised a BBQ/picnic at Waterloo Park on the 10th of April 2021. With about three-quarter of the participants new to HDR candidature, it allowed the new candidates to meet with each other and with old candidates. Together we had an amazing time. Participants got to know each other and share their HDR experiences. The majority of the participants described it as a great chance to meet face to face at this challenging time and they look forward to a similar future event.

Do you want to be part of similar informal social events? Keep an eye on our upcoming social event in the month of May. For this event, we are planning to go 10-pin bowling and a coffee afterwards. The date, time and venue will be communicated in due time.

Muhammad Chutiyami (Chuti), PhD Candidate and HDR Mentor.

HDR Mentors Annual Newsletter 2020



The year 2020 was incredibly challenging for HDR Mentors, which substantially changed the mentoring culture. But our hardworking mentors proved their strength and commitment through continuous participation in mentoring activities. If you want to know how HDR Mentors dealt with these challenges and how our mentors continued their academic, social, and well-being activities during the pandemic, then look at our annual [HDR Mentors Newsletter](#). This newsletter aims to showcase our 2020 projects and events, and to reflect on the role that our hardworking mentors are playing to enrich and strengthen the HDR community in testing times such as these.

Dr Rabia Bashir, Alumni HDR Mentor

HDR Mentors presents: Stress Less with Ashwin



“Stress can be helpful to motivate us to address problems. However, it becomes unhelpful when we worry about problems we can’t solve” – such a powerful message by Ashwin Singh, Allied health advisor at Campus Wellbeing, as he addressed around 50 HDR students in an interactive, online workshop on Thursday, 15 April 2021. During the workshop organized by HDR Mentors, participants learned some really interesting strategies to cope with uncertainty, procrastination, anxiety and depression. Participants were also able to open up and chat freely about their feelings and emotions in a safe environment and share their personal tips with each other. Cherry on top: Mentors shared their own personal stories to motivate others. Message of the day: **You are not alone. We are in this together!**

Here’s a sneak peak of some of Ashwin’s golden tips:

- Build a routine to handle uncertainty.
- Give yourself time off per week to recharge.
- Use a physical activity with low mental effort when needing to think through a problem.

Learn more about stress management strategies, listen to mentors’ stories and explore more wellbeing topics [here](#).

Saba Akbar, Bhavana Penmetcha and Trudy Green, PhD Candidates and HDR Mentors

30 seconds with Angela Liu



Angela Liu, Higher Degree Research Operations Officer (Commencements)

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

My role is HDR Operations Officer. I work with other team members to administer

HDR commencements including candidate application assessment, issuing offers, visa coordination/administration, enrolments etc.

What brought you to this role?

I applied for this role as it gives me an opportunity to deeply understand the higher degree research policies, procedures, develop the communication skills to work with professional and academic staff members in different departments and faculties. It is also a good chance to provide support and advice to domestic and international higher degree research candidates.

What is your favourite aspect of the role?

The role requires quick action to complete the various tasks in a timely manner while dealing with different candidate's case which can be unique and special. Those challenges are always opportunities for me to think and practise different ways to improve current work process and promote resilience to stress.

Scholarships

HDR scholarships closing soon!

Scholarship name

[Sydney Quantum Academy \(SQA\) Domestic and International PhD Scholarships | Round 4](#)

[Developing novel genetic disease models for dementia](#)

[Studying post-translational protein modifications in brain function and disease](#)

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

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

[Working with geomorphic and vegetative recovery in river and flood management - domestic](#)

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



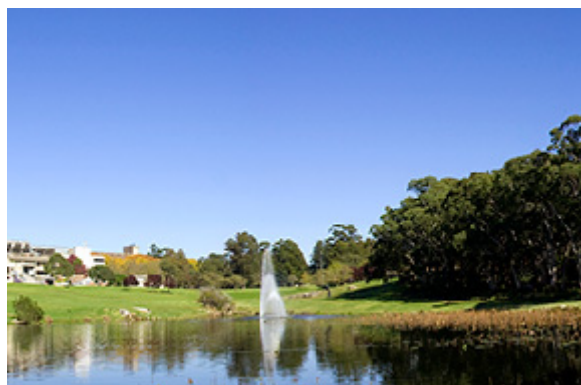
Cotutelle and International Opportunities



Higher Degree Research Scholarships



HDR Support & Development



My Research Program

YOU to the power of us



Macquarie University NSW 2109 Australia

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

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