A message from our Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate Research

During the past four months, I have been working as a Fellow at the Israeli Institute of Advanced Studies in Jerusalem. The fellowship has enabled me to work with a group of scholars from around the world on meta reasoning, a new emerging field of research focused on how accurately we can monitor the outputs of our own thought processes. The opportunity to dedicate oneself to deeply engage in a research topic for an extended period, to the relative exclusion of other concerns, is unusual in the life of a senior academic. The experience reminds me of my PhD, the only other period in my academic career in which I felt a similar level of engagement, commitment and immersion in purely research pursuits.

My fellowship will end soon, and I will return to Sydney with a renewed vigor and enthusiasm for discovery. For all of you, I similarly encourage you to make the most of the unique opportunity to dedicate your time exclusively to research questions that you are passionate about. The time will pass more quickly than you expect, and, like me, you might have to wait some time before such an opportunity affords itself to you again. So, cherish every minute and enjoy the fabulous journey!

As we move into a new year, I’d like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the GRA team and their commitment to supporting our graduate research community during a period of significant change and challenge. I’d also like to recognize the achievements of our graduate researchers, of whom, more than 450 will graduate in 2022; a special group of early career researchers who have
navigated the COVID years and successfully progressed in spite of this! You should all be immensely proud of your achievements.

My time in Jerusalem is coming to an end and I will shortly return to Sydney to spend the holidays with family and friends. I hope you are similarly able to take some time to relax and refresh and enjoy the holiday celebrations with those closest to you.

With very best wishes for a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas, and a fabulous New Year!

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

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 2023 workshops, please visit MyRDC website in January/February. To receive announcements for GR Workshops please ensure you have enrolled in our iLearn site!

1-31 December 2022
Deep Work Morning Sessions (Online via Zoom)

19-21 December 2022
Offsite Research Writing Event

Register here

Announcements
Research study on the mental health of PhD students in Australia

The mental health of PhD students is of growing concern. An international survey of more than 6,300 PhD students indicated that 36% of PhD students have sought help for mental health concerns caused by their PhD studies (Woolston, 2019). The impact of PhD studies on their mental health extends into their post-PhD careers (Woolston, 2020).

The Centre for Human Factors and Sociotechnical Systems, University of the Sunshine Coast, is undertaking a nationwide study to assess the mental health of PhD students in Australia and to understand how the mental health of these students compares with the wider Australian working population. They are aiming to survey PhD students from every university in Australia.

For more detailed information and to access the survey, please click here.

Important Dates

December
Offers made for S1 2023 Domestic Research Scholarships

Offers made for S1 2023 International and Domestic Road to Research Scholarships

8 December
Session 2 and Full Year Unit Results Published

15 December
Opening date for S2 2023 International Master of Research program (candidature only)
Note: MQBS and Arts do not offer Master of Research Year 1 commencement in S2 2023

Mid December
Outcomes of progressing BPhil – MRes Y2 scholarships released.

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

News & Information
Dr Louise Dwyer and I recently spent a couple of days in Canberra for the annual Australian Council for Graduate Research (ACGR) conference. We met face to face with the Deans and Directors of graduate research from all Universities across Australia, to share updates and ideas on helping support candidates and supervisors in graduate research. We covered a number of topics, such as industry focused PhDs and internships, how to better support our indigenous candidates (look out for Dr Sadie Heckenberg, NATSIHEC; she is an up and coming superstar in this area), how to support our international candidates, manage workloads in graduate research and some updates on ACGR good practice guidelines (you can find these here). Overall it was a great chance to meet up and support each other in our graduate research roles.

We also discussed the upcoming review of Australia’s higher education system by the Australian Universities Accord Panel (see here for more information). If you would like to contribute to this review, they have a survey as a means to consult with us, which closes on December 19, 2022. So, have your say!

Have a fantastic and safe festive period

Professor Jennifer Cornish

Academic Director, Graduate Research

Researching like a marathon runner
All research involves writing. Knowledge cannot remain solitary but must be expressed. Writing and publishing share that knowledge for the future. Writing and science are thus intimately linked. That’s one reason why writing can hang over researchers as a weight. Amount, style, hard-won clarity—these problems daunt us and sometimes feel intractable.

The novelist Haruki Murukami wrote an interesting book that I read during my PhD which touched on this point. *What I talk about when I talk about running* was about Murukami’s long distance running, a habit that he’d built up over 25 years which started when he began writing full time. His memoir develops into a reflection on the links between endurance running and writing.

There are too many parallels to repeat here, but the book is a deserving read. The key point I took was this: that writing a thesis (or a novel), like training for long distance running, is built up through consistent, small stages. Your aim is not momentary brilliance; it’s a steady focus coupled with endurance. Both of these, Murukami observes, can be trained and strengthened.

This summer, why not reflect on how to develop focus and endurance?

Dr Andrew Dunstall  
*Graduate Research Development Advisor*

**Arts RF2: Groundbreaking Research from MRes Y2**
Moral beauty, human-animal relationships, feminism and fiction, and multilingual spaces were all topics at the Faculty of Arts Research Frontiers 2 (RF2) Conference held on 17 November 2022. The RF2 conference is a twice-yearly event, in which FoA MRes Year 2 candidates present their research to the Faculty and meet a key milestone as they work toward their thesis submission.

RF2 is an opportunity for researchers across the Faculty of Arts (and indeed, across the University) to learn more about the ground-breaking and inspiring research being done by candidates in the early stages of their research journeys. Research training directors, supervisors, and PhD candidates from a spectrum of Arts disciplines attended the conference and contributed to the vibrant discussions that followed each presentation.

Keep your eye out for our next RF2 conference in June 2023 – you won’t be disappointed if you come along!

Dr Beppie Keane
Faculty of Arts Liaison Coordinator

**Graduate Research Supervision**
What a year!

As we head into the end of year celebrations, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on what we have achieved this year.

- 363 supervisors completed the mandatory Foundations in HDR Supervision course, and 105 external supervisors completed mandatory supervision training.
- the GRA delivered 20 supervisor info-sessions covering a range of operation processes from applications, offers and acceptances through to candidature management and demystifying the examination process.
- Hugh Kearns from iThinkwell provided tips and guidance for supervising HDR candidates in workshops on providing feedback, supervising candidates flexibly, self-promotion and a supervision masterclass.
- The inaugural GRA Supervision Forum Series was held in May, and a second series was delivered in September. Over 7 weeks, 25 experienced supervisors and members of the Research Degree Sub-committee provided advice and answered questions from supervisors about a range of topics including supervision practices, maintaining progress, and resolving differences, and managing the examination process.

Thank you to everyone who joined us this year!

The 2023 Supervision Enhancement Program will be available on the Supervision Enhancement website early next year. If you would like to learn more about a specific topic or would like the GRA to deliver a session for your department/faculty, please let me know: gr.supervision@mq.edu.au.

Wishing you a happy and safe festive season,
Karen

Dr Karen Laughton
Supervision Enhancement Manager
Back for a second year, GRAfest 2022 was a fantastic day of development and networking and we were thrilled to see so many graduate researchers in person. Our theme this year was **Looking after yourself and your future** and our speakers and guests gave us plenty of ideas and strategies for both. Participants spent the morning with Dr Michelle Jamieson looking at the relationship between work and wellbeing and how mindfulness can help us strike the right balance. This was followed by an opportunity for lunch and networking before jumping into our first panel for the day on Employability. Kirsty Hosea, Emily Chang and Vito Mollica, in conversation with A/Professor Agnes Bosanquet, explored some of the employment challenges for graduate researchers, while busting myths and sharing their ‘hot tips’ for job seekers. An entertaining and enlightening session!

For our second panel, graduate researchers Chloe Chen, James Cox, Ali Shariati and Jodie Torrington shared their personal experiences and insights with communicating their research impact. Chaired by Professor Amanda Barnier and Dr Roberta Kwan, the session was fascinating and insightful.

Our final speaker, Melanie Lewis, shared some of the incredible support, resources and programs available to graduate researchers through the Macquarie Incubator. Whether you are interested in commercialising your research, learning to pitch your research or how design thinking can help your PhD there was something for everyone.

We rounded up the day with trivia over pizza and drinks at the Ubar. A wonderful end to a great day!
Joint Research Seeding Grants

Macquarie University and Mahidol University, Thailand, have agreed to establish a competitive Seed grant program to enhance cooperation and collaboration between their researchers and those institutions.

Funding information:

- Funding for 2 projects available, of a duration up to 12 months.
- The universities will contribute $10,000 each to each project.
- Projects should have a Co-Principal Investigator from each university.

Important deadlines:

- 30 January 2023 - call for proposals opens
- 27 February 2023 - submission closing date for proposals

For Funding Rules and the Application Form, or if you require more information, contact the Strategic Programs team at gr.international@mq.edu.au.

Scholarships

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