A message from our Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate Research

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable break with family and friends and that you managed to take some time out to refresh and refocus in preparation for a fresh start at the beginning of a new year.

So, what advice would I give for 2022?

This new year will be full of opportunities for you, decisions to be made and options to consider – whether to apply for a post doc overseas perhaps, where to submit your first paper, which international lab to visit when the borders are open or the optimal design of your newest experiment. One of the challenges of making good choices is that dissatisfaction tends to increase the more options we have available to choose from, so we will often maintain the status quo or stick with a default option. This has something to do with anticipated regret – how much we imagine we will regret our choice as a function of the number of attractive options that we may have to forego. The problem is that these feelings of regret are imagined and rarely pertain and making choices is a good thing. After all we can often only change our circumstances and the course of our lives by changing direction. So, my first piece of advice would be to not settle for the status quo, take a risk and choose to do something different.
But this is a new year, so let’s not think too much about regret. My second piece of advice relates to its contrary, the feeling of delight. This emotion is captured wonderfully by Ross Gay in his ‘book of delights’, a collection of daily reflections on those experiences that ‘delighted’ him every day, such as when his son got the school bus for the first time at 4 years of age, or when he woke early to see the sun rising behind a hill near his home. It is a wonderful exercise which can help us to live every moment to its fullest; consider the delight of a great coffee in the morning, your dog running to greet you as you walk through the door, cold watermelon on a hot summer’s day or most recently for me, seeing my daughter and grandchildren for the first time in two years.

So, what anticipated delights will await you over the coming year? A year where you will have the privilege of dedicating your time to a research question you are passionate about. Perhaps the delight of making a novel contribution to your discipline or having your first paper accepted; the applause after giving your first conference presentation or just the overwhelming joy of academic thought and discovery. These are some of the genuine delights in store for you over the next few years so please savour them, enjoy them and perhaps write them down!

I hope you will join me in anticipation for this new year which will undoubtedly be full of challenge, but filled with moments of delight and hopefully, the absence of regret.

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

GR Workshops

2022 workshops are progressively being added to the MyRDC website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
<th>10am-12pm</th>
<th>9 February 2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>GR Statistical Consulting Service</td>
<td>16WW (Lincoln Building), Room 1.31 (Level 1)</td>
<td>ONLINE February mini-writing retreat</td>
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<td>Appointments recommended: contact A/Prof Peter Petocz</td>
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<td>Register here</td>
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PGRF workshop
Register here →

24-25 February 2022

NVivo workshop
Register here →

27 Feb – 2 March 2022

GRA Offsite Research Writing Event
Registration FULL!

10-11 March 2022

Word for Graduate Researchers (online)
Register now →

21-22 March 2022

Excel for Graduate Researchers (online)
Register now →

March 2022 (date to be confirmed)

SPSS Introductory Workshop

March 2022 (date to be confirmed)

SPSS Intermediate Workshop

April 2022 (date to be confirmed)

Survey Design (Lime)

Announcements

PVC Welcome Semester 1,
Thinkwell Workshop (online)
2022

New candidates please join us to hear about the Graduate Research Academy and the services and support available to our research candidates at MQ.

Find out about the requirements of our Central Commencement Program and other important information as you commence your research program.

10:00-11:30am, Thursday, 10 February 2022

Please register here. Further details will be provided via email prior to the event.

Important Dates

1 February - Australia Awards Scholarship open
7 February - Closing date for 2022 China Scholarship Council (CSC) Applications
7 February - Session 1 Census date for candidates enrolled in MRes Yr2, MPhil and PhD
18 February - Payment due date for BPhil/MRes Yr1 students for session 1
21 February - Session 1 Study Period Start (applicable to BPhil/MRes Yr1)

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

Our first student program of the year is here! We will be hosting our first Social Hackathon during March 2022. If you are interested in creating meaningful solutions, joining a multifunctional team and meeting like-minded people, this is your chance! Join our EOI here. More information to come.

News & Information

Plan your year … with us!

Join us for "Communicating the Impact of your Research"

13:00-15:30pm, Friday, 25 February 2022

Please register here (no need to register again if you have already confirmed your attendance) The Zoom link will be provided via email prior to the event.

The beginning of February is pretty much the beginning of the academic year, so what are your graduate research resolutions for 2022?!

While planning your project goals & milestones, why not think more broadly about skills you can develop during your degree that not only meet those goals but also set yourself up well for life beyond the PhD/MPhil/MRes.

Need to work on your publication skills and strategies? Want to design a survey that avoids common rookie mistakes? Curious about SPSS or NVivo? Suspect you’re not the most efficient user of MS Word or Excel? Maybe you’re not so confident at public speaking, working with your supervisor, managing your project, or networking at conferences and other professional events?

Maybe you just don’t know what you don’t know!

If you’ve found yourself nodding (in agreement, not off to sleep!), here are three simple things you could do this week:

1. Book a ½ hour appointment with a Graduate Research Development (GRD) Advisor to discuss your needs and tailor a 2022 skills development plan.
2. Peruse the myRDC workshop calendar and get an idea of what’s on offer – plan when it's best for you to take a workshop and register your place.
3. Enrol in the GRD iLearn unit to get advance notice of new skills development events as they are added to the myRDC throughout the year.

The GRD team not only runs workshops and events like writing retreats, but also offers research writing groups and other skills development resources. We can also point you to other specialists at MQ who can help meet your research needs.

All the best for a productive and fulfilling year!
Dr Juliet Lum  
GRD Manager

Coming soon - Supervisor info sessions, workshops and forum series!!

Photo by Quince Creative on Pixabay

Starting in March, the Graduate Research Academy will be offering a new range of supervisor development opportunities.

Our info sessions will provide supervisors with an overview of the GRA operational processes, from applications, offers and acceptances through to candidature management and demystifying the examination process.

The workshops will include more specific guidance for supervising candidates, from maintaining relationships and contingency planning to responding to candidate's concerns and supporting candidates at different stages. For more experienced supervisors, we will also have a supervision Masterclass which will focus on how to help both the supervisor and candidate get the most out of the graduate research experience.

The forum series will provide supervisors with an opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences of supervising graduate research candidates. The forum topics have been designed to coincide with the application opening dates for the HDR Supervision Excellence award and the HDR Supervision Fellowship, providing supervisors with the opportunity to reflect on their own supervisory practices in preparation for applying for these awards.

Further information will be made available on the Supervision Enhancement website soon!!
Dr Karen Laughton  
Supervision Enhancement Manager

**NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship Success!**

![NHMRC Logo]

Congratulations to Isabelle Muehlenbroeks from the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences who is one of just 65 outstanding health and medical graduates across Australia to be awarded an NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship of $104,541.92. This is an extremely competitive scholarship – Well done Isabelle and Supervisory team!

Isabelle’s PhD is titled: The impact of COVID-19 and associated health policies on access to allied healthcare, care quality, and health outcomes in Australian residential aged care facilities. The project seeks to explore care quality, health outcomes, and allied healthcare delivery in residential aged care facilities (RACF) pre and during COVID-19 using electronic medical record data from a large aged care provider. Findings will be used to inform care practices and policy during future RACF lockdowns which occur regularly for conditions like influenza. The results also address key policy areas in care quality, e.g., falls, restraint use, and access to allied healthcare.

Isabelle is based at the Australia Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI) and her Supervisors are Prof Johanna Westbrook, Dr Karla Seaman and Dr Magda Raban.

New PhD students (commencing in 2022) who have a focus on health and medical research can find out more about how to apply for an NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship on our [website](https://page.mq.edu.au/index.php/email/emailWebview?md_id=22384). The scheme will open on 13 April 2022.
Thank you to everyone who joined us to make our inaugural GRAfest conference such a success! With a focus on resilience and employability, our fantastic keynote sessions by Dr Shari Walsh and Dr Tim O'Meara were very well attended and received. Hugh Kearns' Thinkwell workshops proved to be a popular addition to the two day program as well as "You Can't Ask That" with our brave supervisors! The recordings of the sessions will be made available shortly so you can catch up on anything you may have missed.

MCCALL HDR Conference

Changing Perspectives and Stories
A MCCALL HDR and ECR Conference
9 December 2021 | In-Person and online event (MQ Campus)

On 9 December 2021, HDR candidates and casual tutors from across the Faculty of Arts gathered together in the Arts Precinct Building for the inaugural MCCALL HDR Conference, titled ‘Changing Perspectives and Stories.’

On the day there were two separate conference streams, with 28 participants sharing their research, and a good number of supervisors and peers in attendance. The diversity of approaches and the interdisciplinary scholarship on show provided an encouraging snapshot of the innovative work that Arts HDR students undertake. Papers responded to the conference theme in a wide variety of ways, from exploring
novelistic representations of e-fraud in Nigeria, to analysing the history of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, to considering the community of K-pop cover dancers in Australia.

The conference would not have been possible without the ongoing work of the organising committee: Kate Manlik, Jackson Haberin, Hilary Locke, and Joumana Naja. See you at the 2022 conference later this year!

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 behaviour 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.

Scholarships