A message from our Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate Research

As I write this, Greater Sydney is entering its 10th week of lockdown and it is unlikely that there will be any relaxation to restrictions in the short term until vaccination targets are met. This is not new to many of us and one would have thought that the experience of last year would make us better prepared to manage the uncertainty and challenges of the current circumstances. However, if you are like me, it seems much more difficult to manage and adapt this year compared to last. We have lost many of the freedoms that we had begun to take for granted and the timeline for a return to normal is uncertain as case numbers continue to increase. Whilst other countries relax their restrictions, it feels as if we are only now beginning to experience the reality of a pandemic that has transformed the rest of the world, whilst leaving Australia relatively unaffected.

I have shared my own anxieties with a number of friends and colleagues over recent weeks and invariably they express the same sentiment. I would encourage you to do the same. Do reach out to friends or family to share your feelings and concerns and try to stay connected so that you can check on how others within your network are doing. If you are able to, try to stay active, take lots of breaks in your work schedule and be kind to yourself. It is perfectly reasonable to relax your expectations and cut yourself a little slack during such extraordinarily challenging times.
My office is here to support you in progressing your graduate research program during this period of remote working. Whilst many of you will have been able to modify your research plans to minimize the impact of the current circumstances, we are acutely aware that this will not be possible for all candidates. Many of you will be managing the challenges of caring for children or other family members during the lockdown or be struggling to work remotely without access to an adequate work space or facilities. For this reason, as you will have seen from my recent e-mail, we have introduced a range of new provisions to support candidates during this period and to accommodate the future impact of the pandemic on research progression.

We have extended the application close-date for the ‘COVID-19 scholarship extension’ scheme by 12 months to 31 December 2023, to enable candidates who commenced their PhD this year to apply for a 3-month extension at the end of their candidature to accommodate any research disruptions. In addition, we have introduced a ‘COVID Leave Scheme’, to support students who are unable to continue with their studies during this period. The scheme will provide up to 3 months paid leave to stipend scholarship holders, which can be taken any time up until 31 December 2021 and can be backdated to 1 July this year. The full details of these provisions and other options available to support candidates are available at the Changes to Candidature link. If you have any additional queries, please contact our candidature team on gr.candidatesupport@mq.edu.au, or reach out to your supervisor or HDR director.

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

All workshops can be found on the MyRDC website. To receive announcements for GR Workshops please ensure you have enrolled in our iLearn site!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
<th>GR Statistical Consulting Service</th>
<th>EndNote 20 for Mac</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11am-1pm</td>
<td>2 September</td>
<td>Register here</td>
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<tr>
<td>16WW (Lincoln Building),</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 1.31 (Level 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appointments recommended:</td>
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A/Prof Peter Petocz
(peter.petocz@mq.edu.au)

ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series.
Workshop 4: The Results Section

Register here  →

GR Writing Workshops: What Academic Audiences Expect from Introduction

Register here  →

Thesis Formatting Workshop (for Mac) - Zoom/TBA

Register here  →

Excel for Exploring Data

Register here  →

Developing your DECRA Project Description

Register here  →

SPSS Intermediate Workshop (Zoom)

Register here  →

Developing your Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence for the DECRA Scheme

Register here  →

GR Writing Workshops: Making Rigorous Description and Justification of Research Methods

Register here  →

Word for Graduate

F2F Science Writing for
Researchers

Register here

Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 5: Data presentation

Register here

ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 5: Data presentation

Register here

F2F Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 6: The Introduction

Register here

Survey Design and Practice Using Qualtrics

Register here

Thesis Formatting Workshop (For PC/Mac) - Zoom

Register here

Writing the Statement by the Administering Organisation for the DECRA Scheme

Register here

ONLINE Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 6: The Introduction

Register here

GR Writing Workshops: Techniques in Discussing Results and Drawing Conclusion

Register here

NVivo for Mac (v12)

Register here

Survey Design and Practice Using LimeSurvey
Announcements

Upcoming workshop: Pitch Program

Dates: 15 September – 5 October

Information about the workshop can be found here.

Register here

Pro Vice-Chancellor’s Graduate Research Welcome

Invitations to PVC’s Graduate Research Welcome (Semester 2) 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 Wednesday, September 15.
Registrations are essential. If you are a new graduate research candidate at MQ and have not received an invitation, please contact: gr.commencement@mq.edu.au.

Peer Writing Assistance (PWA) sessions

Are you a graduate researcher? Do you need help with your writing? Are you confused about the GR 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

15 September - PVC Welcome

15 September - International MRes applications (no scholarship) for S1 2022 commencement close

28 September - Last date to withdraw without Fail. Financial penalty applies (applies to BPhil/MRes Yr1)

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

HDR News & Information

DVCR Weather Report 2021
Prof Sakkie Pretorius will be presenting his annual DVCR Weather Report via zoom on Tuesday, 14 September 2021, 2-3 pm.

At this year's Weather Report, Prof Pretorius will provide an update on Macquarie University's research excellence, engagement and impact – taking time to highlight the significant achievements, results and strengths of our research despite the impacts of COVID-19.

Register here

A recording of the DVCR Weather Report 2021 will be available for those who are unable to attend on the day.

Food hampers for international students

(Image 2 - Image by Daniel Fazio on Unsplash)

The University has partnered with Oz Harvest to provide free food relief hampers for our international students in need.)
Hampers will be distributed every **Friday from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm** in front of **18 Wally's Walk**. We cannot ensure everyone receives one so please arrive promptly. Please bring your MQ student card for proof of identity upon collection.

ONLY students who live within 5km from Campus or within the LGA City of Ryde can collect the hamper on campus. Students will have to check-in via the QR code, wear a mask and leave the campus immediately after collection.

Students who are not able to come to campus are encouraged to check the [emergency food assistance for international students provided by Study NSW](https://www.study.nsw.gov.au/economic/research) for delivery options or [Macquarie University’s Support Website](https://www.mq.edu.au) for food assistance around Sydney.

Please contact [studentq@mq.edu.au](mailto:studentq@mq.edu.au) if you need further information.

**SAVE THE DATE: ResBaz Sydney 2021 (23 to 26 November)**

**ResBaz Sydney** is back in 2021 and will be online for the first time.

ResBaz (Research Bazaar), multi-streamed from 23 to 26 November 2021, is a forum for learning, sharing and experiencing cutting edge technologies, methods and techniques in digital research. It is open to researchers and research students from all disciplines as well as research support staff.

[Check out the ResBaz website](https://www.mq.edu.au/research-bazaar) for details, and keep an eye out for program and registration information, to be made available on the website soon.

So be sure to save the date and spread the word.

*Editor’s note: The Graduate Research Academy has provided funding to cover the conference registration fee for 20 GR candidates! To secure this opportunity, be one of the first 20 candidates to email gr.matters@mq.edu.au with “ResBaz” in the*
subject line!! Don’t forget to include your full name, student ID and supervisor details in the email.

Macquarie University Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition

(Image 4) Macquarie’s 2020 3MT Winner, Geraldine Sullivan, Department of Molecular Sciences, FSE (Photo: Juliet Lum)

Macquarie University’s Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition is on again! As was the case in 2020, the format for competing this year is by video. And now is the time we need your help!

People’s Choice Winner: By next Monday (6 September), the winners from each Faculty will have provided their 3MT video, and we need you to determine the People’s Choice! Videos will be uploaded to the MQ 3MT 2021 iLearn unit, so anyone with an MQ OneID will be able to watch the videos and vote for their favourite. Voting will be open from 6 - 9 September, so don’t miss it!

The Winners of Macquarie’s 2021 3MT will be announced at 2pm on Friday 10 September via Zoom. You should get an invitation from your Faculty Liaison Coordinator with the Zoom details before then; if not, please contact gr.development@mq.edu.au.

Timeline

September 6 - 9: MQ People's Choice Voting and Judges’ Deliberations period
September 10: 2pm, MQ Winners announced over Zoom
September 27 - October 20: 2021 Virtual Asia-Pacific 3MT Competition. More information on how to support our winner at the Asia-Pacs will feature in the October newsletter.
Best of luck to all of those competing in the Faculty Heats and Macquarie University 3MT Final!

Dr Juliet Lum, Graduate Research Development

GRA Engage program

Following the successful 2020 HDR Engage program, we are happy to advise a new GRA Engage program will be launching soon! The GRA Engage Program (October 25th - December 13th) aims to enhance knowledge, increase confidence, and develop practical skills for PhD candidates to initiate and build collaborative relationships with partners.

There will be online group sessions, as well as a limited amount of homework, and one-on-one coaching with our highly regarded facilitator Jane Cockburn from Kairos Now. Participants will also be able to benefit from the insights of guest speakers from industry and academia, helping them discover pathways for future career opportunities.

Also, for the first time, PhD candidates from the University of Groningen will be participating, allowing more opportunities for participants to network and collaborate. There will be two cohorts of maximum 24 places (12 participants per cohort). Interested PhD candidates can express their interest using this online Qualtrics form https://mqedu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0rgYyG4GFuiN9k2

Developing Research Questions
Kicking off your research journey often involves formulating research questions on your topic. A common approach to developing research questions is to identify and address gaps in the literature. But it can be easy to feel overwhelmed by the mass of concepts and approaches you find in previous studies on your topic.

To navigate your way through this mass (or mess!), you may find it helpful to build a conceptual framework by mapping out the concepts.

First, **brainstorm** the topic and jot down as many relevant concepts as possible to form an initial framework. Then, build on the framework by integrating concepts and perspectives you discover from the literature. **Interrogate** your framework by highlighting the concepts that seem to have received less attention in existing research. It is these overlooked concepts which you can explore in your own study.

Finally, **articulate** what we don’t know (but should) about those concepts.

And voilà: you have your research questions!

*Dr Frank Song – Graduate Research Development Advisor*

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**Scholarships**

**Stipend for Domestic BPhil Candidates in S2 2021**

The Census Date for BPhil candidates was 19 August 2021! Any candidates who may have met the eligibility criteria for the BPhil stipend payment will have received an email notification from the Graduate Research Academy to update their banking details. Candidates will receive these payments in due course. If you received the email but have not yet updated your banking details, please do so via eStudent as soon as possible so that you can receive your payment.
Australian Institute of Health Innovation PhD Opportunity

The Australian Institute of Health Innovation is seeking an exceptional person to undertake a PhD. A background in a health-related field such as health services research, medical sciences, implementation science or psychology is desirable. The candidate will support the implementation evaluation of a NSW Health Translational Research Grants Scheme project and develop implementation science research capacity for rural pediatric integrated care models.

This is a partially funded PhD scholar position, and you will be encouraged to apply for an AIHI scholarship. Please check the PhD entry requirements of Macquarie University. Enquiries can be directed to Associate Professor Yvonne Zurynski (yvonne.zurynski@mq.edu.au) or Dr K-Lynn Smith (k-lynn.smith@mq.edu.au).

Cotutelle and International Opportunities

Higher Degree Research Scholarships

HDR Support & Development

My Research Program