A message from our Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate Research

I recently gave an opening address to some of Macquarie’s newly commencing research candidates where I reflected on my own experience of completing a PhD. I remember thinking that I was privileged to have the opportunity to dedicate all of my time to researching a topic I was passionate about, purely motivated by the desire to enhance our understanding of the world and the minds within it.

You will similarly be motivated by a deep interest in your discipline and will develop high level technical skills and discipline specific knowledge as you become an expert in your area. However, these will not be the most important capabilities that you accrue during your research journey. You will build the analytic skills that underpin a deep appreciation of how to seek evidence to test a hypothesis. You will develop an understanding of how to integrate evidence from multiple sources in support of theoretical claims and arguments and you will engage your creativity in designing novel methods and approaches in addressing complex research questions.

You will develop the wisdom to appreciate that the same data may be used to support alternative theoretical models and build respect for such different interpretations. You will also learn much about yourself along the way; your ability to manage your time and meet challenging deadlines and your capacity to be resilient in the face of uncertainty, setbacks and disappointments.
These skills will be critical and will uniquely prepare you for a future professional career within or outside of academia. The World Economic Forum recently published a report on the future of jobs which emphasised that the pace of change in technology adoption and automation will mean that the future of work will look very different across all sectors of employment in coming years. Although technical expertise and knowledge will be important, the top 15 capabilities identified by employers were dominated by thinking and self-management skills. Employers emphasised the importance of critical and analytic thinking, reasoning and complex problem solving, creativity and innovation, together with self-management skills, such as resilience, flexibility and stress tolerance.

The past two years has been enormously challenging for the sector and employment opportunities in Higher Education are unlikely to recover for some time. Nevertheless, I don’t think there has been a better time to commence a research degree; to simultaneously indulge your passion for your subject whilst at the same time developing a portfolio of skills to uniquely prepare you for your professional future.

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

GR Workshops

Workshops that are full are not listed here. All 2021 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>HDR Statistical Consulting Service</th>
<th>Survey Design and Practice Using Qualtrics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue October 16WW (Lincoln Building), Room 1.31 (Level 1) Appointments recommended: contact A/Prof Peter Petocz</td>
<td>Tue 05 October Register here</td>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 06 Oct</td>
<td>Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 6: The Introduction</td>
<td>Thu 07 Oct</td>
<td>NVivo for Mac (v12)</td>
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<td>Register here</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 12 Oct</td>
<td>Survey Design and Practice Using LimeSurvey</td>
<td>01 ~ 29 Oct</td>
<td>Deep Work Morning Sessions (Online via Zoom)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 21 Oct</td>
<td>HDR Writing Workshops: Every Research Article Is Written from the Basics: Paragraphs, Sentences, and Words</td>
<td>Thu 21 Oct</td>
<td>Science Writing for Publication Workshop Series. Workshop 7: Writing the Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 &amp; 29 Oct</td>
<td>R for Research 2-day workshop</td>
<td>19 Oct ~ 09 Nov</td>
<td>Writing for Publication in the Humanities workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>01 &amp; 04 Nov</td>
<td>Design Thinking for Graduate Researchers</td>
<td>02 &amp; 05 Nov</td>
<td>Design Thinking for Graduate Researchers</td>
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Graduate Research Conference

On December 2 & 3 the GRA will be hosting a 2-day conference for research candidates and supervisors. We'll be hosting thought provoking speakers, offering practical workshops to help build skills for research and career planning, and providing opportunities to connect with each other across the Macquarie graduate research community. This is one not to miss!! More detail will be provided soon - please save the date and we hope to see you there.

Researchers IMPACT Program

Designed to provide a Supportive Pathway for Assessment of Commercialisation / IMPACT Potential for Macquarie University Research Groups, Researchers and HDR Candidates.

Date: 7th October 2021

For more information see link

Master of Research Information Session Online

Do you have an innate curiosity about the world and a natural thirst for knowledge? Kickstart your research

Important Dates

31 October - Domestic Scholarship (PhD, MPhil, MRes Y2) round for 2022 closes
career with our unique research training pathway – the Master of Research.

Online meet one-on-one with academics and advisers from your area of interest and find out what the Master of Research can do for you. See below the event details and link to registration page.

**Thursday, 14 October 2021**
11.00am – 12.00pm

[Register Here](#) →

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**News & Information**

**2021 Research Excellence Awards**

Congratulations to the **2021 Research Excellence Awards** Highly Commended finalists:

**Excellence in Higher Degree Research**

**HASS**

- Dr Jarrod Hore, Faculty of Arts
Dr Corrine Sullivan, Faculty of Arts
Dr Anam Bilgrami, Macquarie Business School

STEMM
Dr Jenny Lee, Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences
Dr Ali Labakhsh, Faculty of Science and Engineering

Excellence in Higher Degree Research Supervision - Supervisor of the Year
Professor Anina Rich, Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences
Professor Chris Patel, Macquarie Business School

Save the date
The winners will be announced live at the Academic Staff Awards Ceremony
Tuesday 30 November 3.00pm – 4.00pm.

Three Minute Thesis competition

((Top to Bottom, L-R): Chair (Professor Jen Cornish), Judges (Professors Sakkie Pretorius, Simon Handley and Dominique Parrish); 3MT Finalists (Jonathan David, Winner Hamid Yahyaei, Signe Duff, Bahar Kavyani, Elham Shirani Faradonbeh, People’s Choice Robert Newport, 3rd Place Tash Pocovi, Callum McDiarmid, Runner Up Juliën Lubeek), 3MT Organisers (Dr Juliet Lum and Alex Loveday))

The Three Minute Thesis competition ran through August and September, attracting impressive video entries again this year. Faculty Heats led to a shortlist of 11 University Final lists, whose entries you can still watch at the 3MT ilearn site.

On Friday 10 September, the MQ 3MT 2021 winners were announced by Professor Jennifer Cornish, Academic Director of Graduate Research. The three illustrious Judges; Professors Sakkie Pretorius (DVC Research), Simon Handley (PVC Graduate Research) and Dominique Parrish (PVC Learning and Teaching) commended all finalists, commenting on the difficulty of choosing winners from such high-quality entries.
First place winner Hamid Yahyaei from the Department of Applied Finance (MQBS) impressed the judges with his highly engaging presentation, Where does money come from? Runner up was Juliën Lubeek (Dept of Earth and Environmental Sciences, FSE) with Microscopes as time machines to help wildlife conservation. FMHHS took out both 3rd place: Natasha Pocovi (Department of Health Sciences) with Breaking the chain of recurrent back pain, and the People’s Choice Award: Robert Newport (Macquarie Medical School) with The way we see things.

You can show your support for Hamid by voting in the People’s Choice ballot on the Asia-Pacific 3MT Semi-final showcase website! Voting closes on 10 October.

Thank you to HDR staff in the faculties for running Faculty Heats, to the Graduate Research Academy Development and Experience Team for organising the competition this year within a much tighter timeframe, and to everyone in the Macquarie community who voted in the People’s Choice ballot!

Finally, a big shout out to all the PhD candidates who participated in this year’s 3MT: those who entered at Department and Faculty level, the University Finalists, and especially to our four winners for 2021. You are all stars!

Dr Juliet Lum - Graduate Research Development Manager

Student Pitch Competition

The MQ Incubator’s Student Pitch Competition is back, and bigger than ever, in 2021! With $20,000 worth of prize money up for grabs, there’s no better time to muster up the courage to participate!

- Monday 27th September: Pitch submissions open
- Sunday 10th October: Pitch submissions close
• Wednesday 14th October: Audience choice award voting commences
• Thursday 21st October: Audience choice award voting closes.
• Wednesday 27th October: Pitch Awards Event

For further information, see competition details here.

Critical Thinking for Graduate Researchers

(Image by Hugo Rocha on Unsplash)

Employers ask for "critical thinking" skills. Universities aim to develop them. Job sites even claim to advise you on them.

But showing critical thinking proves elusive. This can be confusing, especially for graduate researchers who are supposed to demonstrate advanced skills in critical reflection and analysis. There are conflicting arguments over what critical thinking is. The oft-used term “critique” also has a long philosophical history.

Against much of the rhetoric, researchers doubt there really are a set of obvious “transferable” skills easily identifiable across fields of knowledge. Rather, a better view might see critical thinking as plural, integrated within fields as knowledge of standards, warranted beliefs, and disciplinary argument forms.

What can graduate researchers do to extend their critical abilities?

One step is honing your recognition of standards of evaluation relevant to your research. What kind of argument supports a legal principal? What data helps to prove a biological hypothesis? What standards do statistical evidence need to meet? On this view, your critical thinking is embedded in your research expertise.

Stay tuned for GRA workshops on this topic.
Research Data Management Changes – What, Why, How?

Macquarie University has released a new Research Data Management (RDM) framework which includes a Policy suite outlining a comprehensive set of data management practices across the research data lifecycle.

The Framework will assist Higher Degree Researchers (HDRs) in improving the integrity, impact, efficiency, and transparency of their research and meet compliance requirements, including ethics and legal requirements for protection of data.

Guiding resources and tools accompany procedural changes being implemented prospectively (not retrospectively). From 2022, newly commencing PhD students will be required to complete an online training module (RDMOnline) and lodge a Data Management Plan (DMP) during their first year of candidature. Existing HDR students are also encouraged to take advantage of the new training and supporting resources.

More information will be issued to HDR students and their supervisors in due course.

For more information about the RDM Framework and Policy, refer to This Week and the RDM Framework page.

Want to attend free workshops on “R” and “Python”? Express your interest for RezBaz!

We advertised ResBaz Sydney 2021 in our last GR matters – it's a 3 day on-line research conference that is now free to register! The event will be on 23-25
November, 2021. The provisional program includes short workshops (approx 3 hours) on coding (R and Python) on each day of the conference. So if you want to learn more about this software please go to the website and express your interest by joining their mailing list, they will let you know directly when registrations open; and you can join as a learner when the time comes!

Scholarships

Open Now: CSIRO Top-up scholarship call

CSIRO is currently offering Postgraduate Top-up Scholarships for students enrolled at an Australian University and holding a Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship or Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship, commencing in October 2021 or February / April 2022. These scholarships are for PhD projects in CSIRO priority research areas. The students’ research will be co-supervised by CSIRO and university researchers.

The closing date for applications is 1 November 2021 11:00 pm AEST. Apply through the [CSIRO Top up Scholarships - Data61](https://www.data61.csiro.au/) and [CSIRO Top up Scholarships](https://www.csiro.au/) website.

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