3 Minute Thesis

Runner up and People’s Choice Winner Jenny Shanks, School of Science and Health, with Ryan McMullan, School of Social Sciences and Psychology, overall winner. Ryan will represent UWS at the Trans-Tasman final on October 18th at Parramatta South campus.

Research takes centre stage at UWS 3MT final

Click on the link above for more photos of the UWS 3MT finals. This year’s event was slightly different to previous ones as it was a dress rehearsal for the Trans-Tasman on October 18th. Thirteen students participated and the quality of presentations made a hard task for the judges. Many audience members made a point of mentioning how highly they considered the standard of all the contestants.

Over 40 universities are coming to UWS for the Trans-Tasman. It will be a terrific event; free, fabulous and you can bring the family and your friends for an easy to access explanation of what research education is all about. PS, parking at Parramatta is a little less hectic on Fridays, maybe you can car pool from your home campus?

Book here; uws.edu.au/three_minute_thesis

More news on the UWS competition

Luke Bazetto, School of Computing Engineering and Maths

School of Education 3 MT contestants

Entrants from the School of Humanities and Communication Arts.
Poster Award for Andrew

Andrew Gherlenda, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, won an award for his poster presentation "Interactive effects of elevated CO2 and temperature on plant-insect interactions" at the International Chemical Ecology Conference (ICEC 2013, 19-23 August 2013) in Melbourne. Congratulations Andrew.

New Doctorate Policy
(student/staff login needed)

UWS now has one single policy covering all doctorates. The policies Doctor of Business Administration Policy, Doctor of Creative Arts Policy, Doctor of Cultural Research Policy, Doctor of Education Policy, Doctor of Medicine Policy, Doctor of Philosophy (Political and Social Thought) Policy, Doctor of Philosophy Policy and Professional Doctorate Policy, have been combined into one new policy named the Doctorate Policy.

The content remains the same but the new organisation makes it clearer to readers by removing the need to read individual named doctoral policies in conjunction with the generic Professional Doctorate Policy, which is now also included in the Doctorate Policy.

Joe Velikovsky, DCA candidate
School of Humanities and Communication Arts blog.

Joe is a Transmedia Writer-Director-Producer & Film Story & R.O.I. Consultant (Films, Games, TV, Novels, etc) His DCA research investigates the secret of successful screenplay writing.

These are Joe’s blogs;

‘On-Writering’ – Joe’s transmedia writing blog. It requires an updated browser or Google-Chrome

on-writering.blogspot.com.au

And

‘StoryAlity’ - which is Joe’s ongoing doctoral research blog.

storyality.wordpress.com

NB; if anyone is thinking of blogging, Wordpress is free, easy to use and looks good.
“Freeing yourself from the internet” James Hayton
and more James,
Sleep!
A beginner’s guide to statistics for PhD research
TK is widely used in journalism as a placeholder for
missing material, standing for “to come”.
Is it ok to take time off when you are writing your thesis?

“Working with literatures – love the uncertainty” Pat
Thomson
More from Pat
“Dealing with the cold calling journal”

PhD television
Did you know plants have bodyguards? Elvira de Lange
explains her thesis in two minutes.
More PhD telly
How much coffee is too much coffee?

Twitter discussion summary on developing your research
profile you will need to scroll down

“How to stay active in the office: top tips” by Monika
Parker
From standing up in meetings to taking the stairs, making
micro-movements throughout the day can boost your
health

Presentation coming up?
The Thesis Whisperer has tips for you

“Achy breaky heart: coping with academic rejection”
Dr Judy Robertson, Senior Lecturer in computer science at
Heriot-Watt University in Scotland, via the Thesis
Whisperer
Trivia; (from) “2000 to 2010... the number of doctoral
enrolments at Australian universities grew by 68 per cent
from 27 966 to 47 066” (Thesis Whisperer)
“most recent Census ... conducted by the Australian
Bureau of Statistics, there were 118 396 PhDs in Australia
in 2011”

Paleopix Blog; Some notes on technical writing

“Integrating Zotero and Scrivener for citation management”
by Lizon March

How to Write a Better Résumé
Fix the most common mistakes that can keep you from
getting the job you want.
By Mignon Fogarty, Grammar Girl

“PhD Problems: When Things go Wrong” Dr Nathalie
Mather-L’Huillier
Dr Claire Aitchison is leaving UWS

Claire has been at the forefront of the UWS HDR student workshop program for many years and is particularly well regarded for her Thesis Writing Circles as well as her work with early career researchers and supervisors. Over the years she has helped scores of doctoral students through to completion, assisted researchers and academics from across the university to publish their work and apply for grants, and more recently, she has contributed to supervisor training.

Claire’s research on doctoral writing has been widely published and is extensively used within the sector.

Claire has accepted a voluntary redundancy but you can keep up with her at doctoralwriting.wordpress.com

DoctoralWritingSIG is a forum where people who are interested in doctoral writing can come together to share information, resources, ideas, dreams (perhaps even nightmares!) in a spirit of building knowledge and skills around higher degree research writing.

Dr Paul G Stevenson and Ms Anwen Krause-Heuer, have just attended 63rd Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting, Chemistry, which was held in Lindau, Germany from the 30th of June to the 5th of July, 2013. Attendance to this event was very selective; the Australian delegation was first nominated by their institutions, selected by the Australian Academy of Science, and nominated by them to the Lindau Scientific Committee. Eight Australian young researchers were selected to attend the Lindau Meeting in 2013.

Anwen is in the final stages of completing her PhD at UWS and is currently working at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) as a Radiochemist.

Anwen Krause-Heuer

I am incredibly fortunate to have been selected as one of the Australian delegates at the 63rd Lindau Nobel Laureate meetings. This year, 34 Nobel Laureates congregated in beautiful Lindau, Germany to meet 625 young researchers from 78 countries. It was such a unique opportunity, and it is quite difficult to capture in words the incredible spirit and inspiring nature of this meeting. This trip would not have been possible without the generous financial support of the Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF) and the Australian Academy of Science, as well as the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) for supplementing my travel. Special thanks also to Professors Mark von Itzstein and Andrew Holmes for travelling with the Australian delegation, and putting the time, effort and resources into organizing additional opportunities to meet with the Laureates.

I would encourage all who are interested to utilize the resources offered by the Lindau Mediatheque (www.mediatheque.lindau-nobel.org) where videos of past meetings are available for viewing.
Jen Li (ICS) blogs about her time at the 2013 Institute of Australian Geographers Conference in Perth.

“HDR student at Geographers Conference in Perth - Institute for Culture and Society”

When Ipso Facto goes wrong.... PhD as a series of papers

“I have four published papers in great journals so I’ll submit my PhD as a series of papers”.

Ok, the four papers are a start but not enough; you also have to meet the requirements of the degree;

Extract from Doctoral Policy;

A Doctorate is awarded in recognition of original, independent and successful research of international standard in the relevant discipline. A Doctoral candidate should make a substantial original contribution to knowledge in the form of new knowledge or significant and original adaptation, application and interpretation of existing knowledge. These outcomes may be based on a comprehensive critical review of literature, empirical research, creative work or other systematic approach embedded in a field or discipline, and/or they may be based on advanced and sustained critical reflection and analysis of professional theory and practice.

Will your 4 papers add up to the requirements of the degree?

And... Are you able to write an overarching statement that serves as an introduction to the assessable work? It must make reference to the research papers and explain the research components in terms of their temporal sequence and interdependence, and their contribution to your personal and professional development, and to the field of scholarship. It should be at least 10,000 words and is usually much longer.

UWS won’t ask the examiners if they think the papers are good. We already have evidence that they are by virtue of them being accepted/published. The examiners will be asked if the papers and the overarching statement together fulfill the requirements of a doctorate (original contribution to knowledge etc). Quite a different question and it is possible to have four excellent papers that cumulatively do not add up to be a PhD.

BTW, not all PhDs as a series of papers are the same.

At Macquarie University for example the papers don’t have to be accepted. This makes a big difference to the examination because it means the papers can be amended. Not so if they are already accepted/published.

UWS PhD as a series of papers is based on the Swedish model in which an overall summary is followed by research papers bound in a single volume.

How to prepare a scientific doctoral thesis based on research articles is written for science students but the Chemistry World review cautions;

“This book is no substitute for a detailed appraisal of the rules and regulations of the university to which the completed thesis will be submitted”.
Workshops

These workshops are free for all research students. You might like to talk to your supervisor about what might be useful for you to attend.

The workshops below are open for registration. For times and locations and to register visit HDR Workshops.

Introduction to research writing for international candidates: Parts 1 and 2
Presentation Skills Workshop
Preparing for Confirmation of Candidature
Introduction to Ethics

Presenting your research orally
Learning Nvivo - Theory, Practice and Project Development - 2 Day Workshop
Writing Your Discussion Chapter
Preparing for Confirmation of Candidature
Titles and Headings that Work
Getting Ready to Write your Literature Review
Writing your Literature Review: Part 1 and 2

And lastly...

Some jokes, allegedly highbrow. See what you think.