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Your ECR Representatives
A message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

I want to take this opportunity to commend you for your hard work under challenging circumstances. The way we are working is not easy and I am hearing, through the ECR Network and through your faculties, the worry and stress that make this period particularly difficult for early career researchers.

I know many of you have experienced a slow down your research activity due to the increased load of online teaching, carer and home-schooling responsibilities, delays to projects, and/or cancelled travel – all things beyond your control. Many of you have found new ways of doing research or have re-organised activities so work can continue during these disrupted times; for others, but for others this has not been possible. At the same time, you are providing crucial support for our higher degree research candidates, and for this I am extremely grateful to you.

I am aware that many of you are working at home while also juggling caregiving responsibilities for family members or supervising children’s schooling. Some are experiencing increased isolation. Our family, friends and colleagues are critical to our wellbeing and are an essential part of a flourishing career. I encourage you to give priority to these elements of your life and to seek support through your peers, Head of Department or the ECR Network. If you need additional support, the University Employee Assistance Program service is waiting to help you and your families.

You are no doubt wondering what this disruption will mean longer term to your research projects, track record and career progression. We are working to identify the gaps in support to keep your research on track and will re-evaluate productivity measures for PDR and promotions. There are obviously factors outside our control and we will continue to advocate for you to national funders to protect the interests of early career researchers affected by COVID-19.

My team is working with the Faculties to plan and implement a staged recommencement of research facilities and activities. Some research activities can be restarted quite quickly although with new guidelines to support physical distancing, hygiene and safety. Other activities depend on renewed access to participant and community groups or the lifting of travel restrictions. Our planning is consistent with Federal and State Government directives and guidelines, with Macquarie’s COVIDSafe Plan, and with Macquarie’s Return to Work on Campus Plan. Importantly, our return to research activities must progress in phases alongside the University’s other activities while recognising areas of priority: time sensitive research, timelines of HDR students, project milestones and objectives, and groups especially affected by this disruption. We have a clear roadmap for recommencing research, and you will hear soon from your Executive Deans, Associate Deans Research and/or Department Heads about next steps as they put return to work plans in place in your area.

I want to assure you that the University Executive and your Heads of Departments are aware of and are seeking ways to support you in the challenges you face.

I admire and greatly appreciate your commitment and your resilience. I look forward to seeing you all back on our beautiful campus very soon.
With best wishes

Professor Sakkie Pretorius, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Congratulations to…

Our ECRs in the press

- **Dr Vanessa Pirotta** for her feature on *ABC Radio Sydney Afternoons* regarding the humpback whale migration
- **Dr Keith Rathbone** for his contribution to the article 'The NRL should reconsider its comeback: it’s too soon' to *The Conversation*
- **Dr Monica Ren** for her contribution to the article 'Beyond travel, a trans-Tasman bubble is an opportunity for Australia and NZ to reduce dependence on China' in *The Conversation* and her interview on *6PR Mornings* regarding how Australia can re-evaluate its economic dependence on China following COVID-19
- **Dr Joyce Siette** for her feature in *Croakey* regarding the role of telemedicine in preventing or limiting adverse health impacts of social isolation in older adults during COVID-19

Focus On…Minding the Career Gap (part 1)

The career trajectory of a researcher can be an indirect and bumpy one; there is no one correct pathway or trajectory that can be directly followed. Some researchers zoom straight through – undergrad, postgrad, postdoc, tenure; whilst others may take a more scenic route trying out in professional or industry related positions. On top of that, as we pursue an academic career, life continues around us: health issues, child-rearing, family concerns, global pandemics...regardless of whether it was chosen by us or not, these interruptions to one’s career severely impact your research progress and track record.

These days, universities and funding bodies are much more understanding and, subsequently, take into consideration certain career disruption when assessing an applicant’s track record. Ultimately, when it comes to research opportunities, funding bodies like the ARC want to make sure it is a level playing field for all applicants.

*But what constitutes a career disruption? What information needs to be provided? And how does one write about a career gap?* Given that ECR’s research have been disrupted by COVID-19, we have put together a two-part *Focus On* article on career disruptions. In part 1, the Research Services team have kindly provided advice which addresses the first two questions. In part 2 (July ECR News), we will investigate the “how to” question.

*What constitutes a career disruption?*

For a career disruption each funding agency has different definitions and parameters of what they consider a disruption. For example the NHMRC has a narrow definition (see page 7 of [this document](#)). The ARC has more inclusions in their policy (see [here](#)).
The ARC and NHMRC in general takes career interruptions very seriously in their assessment process. When it comes to research opportunities, they want to make sure it is a level playing field for all applicants. This means that medical conditions, disabilities, misadventure, pregnancy, caring responsibilities, non-research career, unemployment and other interruptions can all be taken into consideration when evaluating an applicant’s research track record. As noted above, the ARC and NHMRC have different allowable inclusions under their career disruption policies.

With regards to COVID-19, the ARC released this announcement which includes “introducing a one year, automatic eligibility extension, for all researchers currently in their final year of eligibility for both [DECRA and Future Fellowship] schemes”. Please note that final year applicants in either scheme cannot apply in both rounds. In addition, the ARC have advised that career interruptions arising from COVID-19 can be included under ROPE for consideration by assessors in all future rounds, and advice will be included in the Instructions to Applicants on how to do this.

For the NHMRC, COVID-19 outbreak impacts would be considered as career disruptions or other relative to opportunity considerations under the provisions of NHMRC’s Relative to Opportunity Policy: NHMRC Relative to Opportunity policy.

**What information needs to be provided?**

When requesting a disruption be considered, it is important to include as many details as possible. As an institution Macquarie needs to acknowledge that the statement by the applicant is correct, hence the reason for verifiable evidence. The evidence is also required if we were audited by the funding agency.

Information required includes:

1. Evidence of your career disruption - confirmation emails and/or forms that state when leave is taken and what the leave is for. This is very important to collect at the time, as when you leave an institution that information becomes harder to obtain. Also, things like doctor’s certificates, etc, are also beneficial to collate/document
2. The specific dates for when the career disruption occurred
3. How you returned to work – part-time or full-time. In some cases, part-time work may also be considered a disruption so you need to include dates, evidence etc
4. Details of opportunities you missed out on during your career disruption – e.g. conference or invited lecture you couldn’t attend

Gathering evidence and details for a past career interruption can be difficult at the time of writing your grant. Therefore, it helps to be mindful of a career gap as it occurs (or shortly thereafter). So, as we begin phasing back to “normal”, if you have not already, now might be a good time to start documenting how COVID-19 (and any other career interruptions) has affected your research.

We hope you found this month’s “Focus On” useful. Stay tuned for part 2 in next month’s newsletter, and if you have had any experience writing about a career disruption and wish to share your advice with your fellow ECRs please email us at ecrsupport@mq.edu.au.
Workshops

Preparing for Academic Promotions
August 5, 1pm -2.30pm

Have you just submitted your application for a promotion to Level B or Level C? Then now is the time to start thinking about the interview process. This panel session will help ECRs prepare for academic promotions interviews by sharing information about how the interview process works, what panellists are looking for and what you can do to prepare for a successful interview. A panel of experienced promotions panellists from each Faculty will give an overview of the process and share their perspectives on stumbling blocks and opportunities to shine.

If you would like to attend please register at myRDC, and to help make the most of this session, please fill out this pre-session survey.

If you cannot attend the live event, a recording of the panel session will be posted on the ECR website afterwards.

And if you want to get a head start, feel free to view last year’s panel session recording and slides.

Other MQ Training Opportunities
Please see myRDC for a full list of upcoming workshops for research staff and students.

• Webinar - Professional Staff with a PhD: Dr. Gorjana Mitic, June 4
• Webinar - Professional Staff with a PhD: Dr. Brenton Hamdorf, June 11
• Developing your 5-year research plan, June 12
• Crafting an Effective ARC SRI Rejoinder, June 12
• Crafting an Effective ARC Discovery Project Rejoinder, June 22
• Crafting an Effective ARC DECRA Rejoinder, June 26

Developing your 5-Year Research Plan
June 12

Hitting any mid- and long-term research and career goals is difficult if you don't know what they are. Research Services and Prof Andy Baron are offering an online seminar to discuss how you can identify what you want to do, and how you can give yourself the greatest chance getting there.

Elsevier SciVal and Scopus Training Webinars
May through to August, Mondays 12-1pm

As part of MQ Library's Elsevier subscription, Senior Customer Consultant Steven Riddell is offering fortnightly SciVal and Scopus training webinars on Mondays, 12 – 1pm.

These sessions are available for all staff including (but not limited to) research office and academics.
**Upcoming SciVal Webinars**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Webinar Title</th>
<th>Webinar Registration Link</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-Jun</td>
<td>100,000 - that is the number – Topics</td>
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<td>15-Jun</td>
<td>Drop bears and drop downs - MySciVal Hierarchy</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-Jun</td>
<td>On your mark - Benchmarking - your starting metrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-Jul</td>
<td>Did you say donuts - yes 5 of them - 100,000 Topics (Overview) and Research Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-Jul</td>
<td>Finding the golden ticket - Benchmarking other metrics</td>
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<td>24-Aug</td>
<td>Say my name, say my name - SciVal author profiles</td>
<td><a href="https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eSgaKcvBRkqVA_9I_8oTsg">https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eSgaKcvBRkqVA_9I_8oTsg</a></td>
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**Upcoming Scopus Webinars**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Webinar Title</th>
<th>Webinar Link &amp; Registration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 June</td>
<td>What's my name, what's my name - Scopus Sources</td>
<td><a href="https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_F7EHzgZSDynHgQxDbCxQ">https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_F7EHzgZSDynHgQxDbCxQ</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>22 June</td>
<td>What's my name, whats my name (2) - Author Profiles</td>
<td><a href="https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eui-RL5aTO-Cjypzb8ehFQ">https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eui-RL5aTO-Cjypzb8ehFQ</a></td>
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<td>6 July</td>
<td>Don't hit snooze - setting alerts.</td>
<td><a href="https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ue-RQb8WT8WwEsBTVSNz4A">https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ue-RQb8WT8WwEsBTVSNz4A</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>20 July</td>
<td>How big is this house? - Affiliation profiling</td>
<td><a href="https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0RERMj_bT9eb8sF5IA9o8w">https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0RERMj_bT9eb8sF5IA9o8w</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 August</td>
<td>This is an artform - advanced searching operators</td>
<td><a href="https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rTNKkZsWRe2ohMbwcnQq">https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rTNKkZsWRe2ohMbwcnQq</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>17 August</td>
<td>This artform is harder that I thought - basic advanced searching</td>
<td><a href="https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V8umT1VSSQmp1cIEZ1Zng">https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V8umT1VSSQmp1cIEZ1Zng</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>31 August</td>
<td>Savings savings, where is my Scopus bank account (lists and MyScopus)</td>
<td><a href="https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_F2R6JNJ3Ty6MiCiaW_mgRQ">https://elsevier.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_F2R6JNJ3Ty6MiCiaW_mgRQ</a></td>
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**External Training Opportunities**

The ECR Network has compiled a list of training opportunities offered by external groups. Please note that some of these external events may have a registration fee and it is up to each ECR to decide if the event is worth their time and money. If you know of any other external training opportunities that you want to share with your fellow ECR’s, please forward the details to the ECR Network and we will include the information in the next newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>In May, gemaker ran a free webinar for researchers and HDR students on <strong>engaging with industry during COVID-19</strong>. The recording of the webinar is available online and is freely accessible. This may be a useful resource to learn how to leverage and expand your networks, adapt your value proposition to our altered world, and boost your research impact.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Free</td>
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PACE for Research: Opportunity to host an intern
EOI due June 5

Do you have a research project for which you need assistance? Would you like the input and engagement of an eager MRes student? If so, please consider engaging MRes students enrolled in MRES7001: PACE for Research in Session 2.

MRES7001 presents a win-win opportunity for host supervisors at MQ, in which staff will benefit from the valuable assistance of upcoming researchers, and our students will learn more about the research process by collaborating directly with experienced scholars. MRES7001 students must carry out a defined project that can be completed in approximately 100 hours between August and November.

If you have a project that you think might be appropriate for an MRES7001 research intern, please complete the short Expression of Interest form by Friday 5 June. For more information contact Unit Convenor, Dr Juliet Lum, or HDR Industry Engagement and Placements Manager, Catherine Ennis.

Sharing Your Newsworthy Research

Have a newsworthy research story that you want to share internally or externally? Or perhaps you have been contacted by a journalist to provide information or an opinion on a hot topic. If you find yourself in one of these situations, or something similar, and are not sure how to proceed, then you may wish to contact Macquarie’s Communications team.

The Communications team works in collaboration with University stakeholders to tell Macquarie's stories. They have recently updated their website to include information on how to suggest a newsworthy story for internal and/or external communication, and developed an FAQ guide on liaising with the media. For more information and contact details, please visit the Communications team website.

Funding Opportunities

A reminder that all funding applications should be submitted through PURE, well ahead of the funding body deadline, to leave time for approvals by HoD, ADR, and Research Services. Check with your Faculty Research Office to find out about timelines for submission.

Internal and External funding opportunities are listed on the Fellowships and Grant Opportunities page. Current opportunities include:

- ARC Linkage Projects 2020 Assessment Round 2 (MQ submission date July 8)
- ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (MQ EOI date August 19, MQ submission date October 21)
- ARC Future Fellowships (MQ EOI date August 19)
- MQ Fellowship for Indigenous Researchers
- MQ Co-funding Scheme
The Research Professional Database is available for Macquarie researchers to search for fellowships, grants and prizes by discipline area.

Changes to Eligibility for DVCR Co-Funding
Eligibility for the DVCR Co-Funding Scheme is now contingent upon on-time submission of grant applications by the Macquarie University submission date. Many applications for external funding require cash and in-kind contributions from the host institution to be considered for funding. In most cases, researchers request cash contributions, such as project support funds, funding for research associates, scholarships and major equipment, from the DVCR via the DVCR Co-Funding Scheme to support their external funding applications. To be eligible to request this DVCR Co-Funding, grant applications must be submitted internally, via Pure, by the Macquarie University submission date. View further information and FAQs.

2021 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist Travelling Research Award
Due June 1, 9am AEST

The Australian Academy of Science is calling for applications for their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist Travelling Research Award.

This award recognises research by outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PhD students and early- and mid-career scientists in the physical and biological sciences. It allows interdisciplinary and sociocultural research that could straddle the social sciences and humanities.

The award aims to support the expansion and growth of recipients’ research networks and international knowledge exchange through visits to relevant international centres of research. Two annual awards of $5500 are planned, with additional support provided to attend the Academy’s annual Science at the Shine Dome event.

For enquiries, please email the awards team.

Australian Academy of the Humanities Funding Opportunities
Due date extended to June 5

- The John Mulvaney Fellowship is an award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early career researchers working in any area of the humanities. The recipient of the John Mulvaney Fellowship will receive $4000 towards undertaking research or fieldwork in Australia or overseas, including accessing archives and other research materials and connecting with researchers and networks.

- The Publication Subsidy Scheme supports quality scholarly publication in the humanities. Subsidies of up to $3000 are awarded to early career researchers to support costs associated with publication, such as illustrations, maps, editorial work and copyright fees.
The Humanities Travelling Fellowships offer grants of up to $4000 to support Australian early career researchers in the humanities to undertake research overseas.

**Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholarships**
Due July 6

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission offers scholarships to individuals seeking to undertake postdoctoral research in the U.S. for 3-10 months, who have either completed their PhD in the past 5 years or are in the last year of completion.

**Job Opportunity**

**Data Steward**
Applications close June 7

The Data Science and eResearch team in the DVCR’s Office at Macquarie University is looking to fill two full-time Data Steward positions. Details are in the job ad.

**Prizes, Awards, and Competitions**

- **Mary Bennett Prize for Women’s History**, June 1
- **Max Crawford Medal 2020**, June 5
- **Falling Walls**, June 6
- **NSW Premier’s Prizes for Science & Engineering**, June 8
- **Nature Research Inspiring Science and Innovating Science Award**, June 14
- **Australian Psychological Society Early Career Teaching Award**, June 30
- **Falling Walls Lab**, July 6
- **The Paul Bourke Awards for Early Career Research**, August 31

For a full list of external prizes please visit: [https://staff.mq.edu.au/research/resources-and-support/prizes,-awards-and-fellowships](https://staff.mq.edu.au/research/resources-and-support/prizes,-awards-and-fellowships)

**Applications for Vice-Chancellor’s Learning and Teaching Awards – NOW OPEN**

July 24

Applications for the Vice-Chancellor’s Learning and Teaching Awards are now open. There are several award categories including an early career award (staff with no more than 5 years’ teaching experience in higher education institution/s). Nominees may be full time, part time, casual, fixed-term, continuing or adjunct staff. We highly encourage our teaching ECRs to apply for these awards.
ECR Notice Board

Keen to reach out to other ECRs across campus? Want to find someone to collaborate with? Explain R to you? Explore Sydney’s best walking tracks? Or just looking to connect with others? The ECR Notice Board is the place to go. Just send us a brief message (no more than 50 words) with your MQ email and, if appropriate, we’ll include it here in the newsletter.

Your ECR Representatives

Do you know your ECR representatives in your Faculty and Department? The following ECRs meet every two months as part of the ECR Network Advisory Group, led by Pro Vice-Chancellor Research Integrity and Development, Professor Lesley Hughes, to discuss issues and identify solutions to the challenges specific to ECRs:

**Faculty of Arts**
- Dr Tom Baudinette
- Dr Katrina Hutchison
- Dr Sarah Powell

**Macquarie Business School**
- Dr Laramie Tolentino
- Dr Han Li
- Dr Rohan Best

**Faculty of Medicine, Health, and Human Sciences**
- Dr Elizabeth Austin
- Dr Jean (Jinhyun) Cho
- Dr Marina Junquiera Santiago

**Faculty of Science and Engineering**
- Dr Amy Cain
- Dr Matthew Fernandez (covering for Dr Michael Swain)

**Research and Research Training Committee Representatives:**
- Dr Milena Gandy (Faculty of Medicine, Health, and Human Sciences)
- Dr Mauricio Marrone (Faculty of Business & Economics)

If you would like something raised with the ECR Network Advisory Group, please contact your Faculty representative.

Let us know what else you’d like to see in this newsletter.
Email ecrsupport@mq.edu.au with your suggestions and feedback.

Don’t want to receive these emails? Please unsubscribe here

https://staff.mq.edu.au/research/resources-and-support/early-career-research-network