

The Research Room

March 2023

Tips of the month

Here are some tips and tricks you can use to make your research experience at VUW much more productive and enjoyable

Document readability. Have you ever wondered how to test the readability of your writing? Then you probably would be happy to know that there is a feature in Microsoft Word that you can use to see readability statistics for your document. For Microsoft 365: Open your document > Select the Home tab > Choose Editor > Scroll down and go to Document stats. For older versions: Go to File > Options > Proofing > Tick grammar with spelling check box > select Show readability statistics > Return to your document > Select Spelling and Grammar.

Dr William Eulath – Doctoral Development Coordinator, FGR, VUW

Careers and Employment. Leadership and mentoring programmes, as well as campus careers expos and employer presentations, are a great way to build an off-campus network and build career and opportunity awareness. Begin connecting now with relevant professional associations, employers and individuals by checking information on the [Careers and Employment website](#) and booking into events such as the March Careers Expo on [CareerHub](#). If you need individual help preparing for opportunities post Masters or post PhD, you can also [contact us for an appointment](#).

Millie Douglas – Senior Career Consultant, Careers and Employment, VUW

Share your story

When utilized effectively, stories can be powerful tools to motivate and change minds. If you need an extra dose of motivation, this story should help you out

‘There is no single path’ – Konstantina

My PhD journey has not been a linear one. I did a humanities BA and spent some years working full-time in industry before I decided to requalify and focus on cognitive science as a postgrad. It took a lot of hard work to make it to a PhD at Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington.

Although coming to New Zealand was a dream come true, it has not been easy. As exciting as it is to explore a new culture, it is not trivial to move across the world – especially as a mature student who has spent quite a bit of time building life back home. And then there was

a global pandemic, plus having a kid mid-way through my PhD...Oh well, I guess PhDs are not meant to be easy anyway!

What has made the experience worthwhile? It is the vast pool of knowledge and expertise within the university – from colleagues and supervisors to professional development workshops, conferences, and opportunities for work and volunteering. If you can tutor or work as a Research Assistant, give it a go and be strategic. If an RA position involves exactly the skills you want to (further) develop, apply even if it is in a different department. Or if a conference like ‘ResBaz’

sounds intriguing, why not give it a go even if you have never done any coding or have no programming skills?

What I've learned through past experiences is that transferable skills are really valuable – they are helpful across different fields of study and can take you anywhere. **So, don't be afraid to venture out of your comfort zone.** In fact, my current job in the Research Capability Team at CAD (Center for Academic Development) is directly related to these diverse (and not necessarily related to my PhD) experiences over the years. Working for different companies between my bachelor's degree and postgrad studies has changed my mind set a lot so in addition to intellectual curiosity, I wanted to use my time at the university to actively seek opportunities to grow as a professional.

Initially, I was self-conscious about being one of the few students in my program who did not have a science-only background. But in time, it was inspiring to realise that many wonderful researchers (and people in general) around me have followed quite unusual and

non-linear paths to get where they are now. **There is no such thing as "the right path"; use your PhD to find your own!** For some of you, your PhD research topic would become a postdoc, followed by an academic career. Others will want to come back and use their new skills to contribute to their home country. Some might even discover academia is not the right fit for them after all.

Do not worry if your journey is far from a straight line. I have learned to embrace new opportunities, and **blend different passions, experiences, and skills instead of seeing them as unrelated distractions. However, make sure you set up your major goals early!** Plans almost always change – life is unpredictable. But it is much easier to adapt and respond to change if you keep your eyes on your long-term goals. Whatever the end result is, stay focus on the journey, the people who support you through it, and the skills you can hone along the way.

Konstantina Vasileva, CAD, VUW

Events happening soon

Looking for other events happening inside and outside VUW? We go over some interesting events happening worldwide

Organizer	Event	Date and Time	Register
Human Ethics Committee, VUW	Human Ethics (<i>In-person and online</i>)	15 Mar, 11:00 – 12:00 NZST	Here
Centre for Academic Development, VUW	Introduction to Zotero (<i>In-person and online</i>)	08 Mar, 14:00 – 15:30 NZDT	Here
	Advanced NVivo (<i>In-person and online</i>)	15 Mar, 14:00 – 15:30 NZDT	Here
	Advanced Qualtrics (<i>In-person and online</i>)	20 Mar, 10:00 – 11:30 NZDT	Here
Te Taiako Student Learning, VUW	Preparation for Academic life and study (PALS) (<i>In-person</i>)	03, 17, 24, 31 Mar, 10:00 – 11:30 NZDT	Here
	Thinking critically (<i>In-person</i>)	07, 14, 21 Mar, 10:00 NZDT	
	PG Research skills seminars: Research proposals (<i>Online</i>)	07 Mar, 14:10 – 15:00 NZDT	
	Postgraduate academic speaking (<i>In-person</i>)	08 Mar, 3:10 – 4:00 NZDT	
	PG Research skills seminars: Literature Reviews (<i>Online</i>)	14 Mar, 14:10 – 15:00 NZDT	
	PG Research skills seminars: Ethical approval (<i>Online</i>)	21 Mar, 14:10 – 15:00 NZDT	
	PG Research Skills Seminars: Te Tiriti Principles (<i>Online</i>)	28 Mar, 14:10 – 15:00 NZDT	
Wellington Careers and Employment, VUW	KPMG Quiz Night and Networking (<i>In-person</i>)	01 Mar, 17:40 – 19:00 NZDT	Here
	DLA Piper Presentation: Working at a Global Law Firm (<i>In-person</i>)	02 Mar, 10:30 – 11:20 NZDT	Here
	MinterEllisonRuddWatts CV workshop (<i>In-person</i>)	06 Mar, 14:40 – 16:30 NZDT	Here
	Duncan Cotterill Presentation: Life at DC (<i>In-person</i>)	07 Mar, 15:40 – 16:30 NZDT	Here

Organizer	Event	Date and Time	Register
Wellington Careers and Employment, VUW	PwC Presentation: What do we do? (<i>In-person</i>)	07 Mar, 17:40 – 19:00 NZDT	Here
	Dentons Kensington Swan Presentation: Working at Dentons Kensington Swan (<i>In-person</i>)	07 Mar, 12:40 – 13:30 NZDT	Here
	The Treasury Careers Presentation (<i>In-person</i>)	08 Mar, 12:40 – 13:30 NZDT	Here
	Big 4: Student Recruitment Panel (<i>In-person</i>)	09 Mar, 17:40 – 19:30 NZDT	Here
	Exploring discourses of decolonising higher education (<i>Online</i>)	09 Mar, 22:30 – 23:30 NZDT	Here
	Commerce and Law Careers Expo (<i>In-person</i>)	09 Mar, 11:00 – 14:00 NZDT	Here
	Deloitte Careers Presentation (<i>In-person</i>)	10 Mar, 12:40 – 13:30 NZDT	Here
	Chapman Tripp Presentation: Bridging the Gap (<i>In-person</i>)	13 Mar, 17:40 – 18:30 NZDT	Here
	Bell Gully Summer Internships (<i>In-person</i>)	13 Mar, 14:40 – 15:30 NZDT	Here
	Bloomberg Information Session (<i>In-person</i>)	14 Mar, 12:40 – 13:30 NZDT	Here
	Buddle Findlay Presentation: Bringing your authentic self to a law firm (<i>In-person</i>)	14 Mar, 15:40 – 16:30 NZDT	Here
	Audit New Zealand Information Session (<i>In-person</i>)	14 Mar, 17:40 – 19:00 NZDT	Here
	Deep Dive into BDO Wellington: What is it really like to be an Accountant? (<i>In-person</i>)	15 Mar, 12:40 – 13:30 NZDT	Here
	Aurecon Presentation: Join us to co-create a better future for Aotearoa (<i>In-person</i>)	16 Mar, 17:10 – 18:30 NZDT	Here
	Mayne Wetherell: What it means to be a transactional lawyer (<i>In-person</i>)	16 Mar, 16:40 – 17:30 NZDT	Here
	Government Legal Network Presentation: Being a Government Lawyer (<i>In-person</i>)	21 Mar, 15:40 – 16:30 NZDT	Here
	WILP2023 SPK3526 - Anti-Racism, Anti-Colonialism, & Climate Change: Romy Opperman (<i>Online</i>)	23 Mar, 11:30 – 12:30 NZDT	Here
	Department of Corrections- Careers Presentation (<i>In-person</i>)	24 Mar, 13:10 – 14:00 NZDT	Here
WILP2023 SPK3541 - Women in Leadership Breakfast (<i>Online</i>)	30 Mar, 07:30 – 09:00 NZDT	Here	
The Education Hub	Engaging with research in early childhood education (<i>Online</i>)	01 Mar, 20:00 NZDT	Here
DoctorateHub	Identifying research gap(s) (<i>Online</i>)	04 Mar, 02:00 NZDT	Here
	Clarifying your literature review search area and finding information (<i>Online</i>)	18 Mar, 02:00 NZDT	
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education	Online Learning Communities as Subversive Activity: Countering the Isolation and Silos in Graduate Supervision (<i>Online</i>)	09 Mar, 14:00 – 15:00 EST	Here
University College London	Gender and Urban Equalities Symposium (<i>Online</i>)	08 Mar, 23:00 NZDT	Here
Taylor & Francis	Understanding Open Data (<i>Online</i>)	02 Mar, 21:00/09:00 NZDT	Here
Google Digital Garage	Build your personal brand online (<i>online</i>)	01 Mar, 11:00 GMT	Here
	Writing for social media (<i>online</i>)	03, 07 Mar, 15:00/13:00 GMT	Here
Harvard Graduate School of Education	How we talk about climate change with kids (<i>Online</i>)	08 Mar, 15:00 EST	Here
	The protective powers of out-of-school play (<i>Online</i>)	22 Mar, 15:00 EST	

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University of Essex	How to Understand and Produce Good Arguments at University <i>(Online)</i>	15 Mar, 14:00 GMT	Here
	Make Your Own Career Map: Navigating Your Working Life <i>(Online)</i>	08 Mar, 14:00 GMT	Here
	Boost Your Emotional Management <i>(Online)</i>	29 Mar, 14:00 GMT	Here
North Central Regional Center for Rural Development	Be Prepared, NCR: A Community Planning Approach to Green Infrastructure, Hazard Mitigation, and Flooding <i>(Online)</i>	07 Mar, 13:00 ET	Here
Pearson	MyLab Accessibility Webinar	30 Mar, 13:00 – 13:30 ET	Here
	Mastering Accessibility Webinar	29 Mar, 13:00 – 13:30 ET	
	Assessment as a Tool for Inclusive Practices <i>(Online)</i>	28 Mar, 15:00 – 15:30 ET	
	A Quick Introduction for Integrating ESG Reporting in Your Course <i>(Online)</i>	28 Mar, 13:00 – 13:30 ET	
	Boosting Recruitment and Increasing Retention of Women and BIPOC Students in STEM <i>(Online)</i>	23 Mar, 13:00 – 13:30 ET	
	Early Alerts - Spotting At-Risk Students Before It's Too Late <i>(Online)</i>	21 Mar, 14:00 – 14:30 ET	
	Teaching Consumer Behavior in the New Normal: Disruptions in Consumer Behavior <i>(Online)</i>	21 Mar, 13:00 – 13:30 ET	
	Promoting Relevant Skills in Lecture, Lab, and Assessment <i>(Online)</i>	16 Mar, 13:00 – 13:30 ET	
	Helping Students Develop Management Skills <i>(Online)</i>	14 Mar, 15:30 – 16:00 ET	
	The role of the Affective Domain and 'Soft Skills' in Collegiate Math <i>(Online)</i>	14 Mar, 15:00 – 15:30 ET	
	They Might not Read It, But They'll Always Watch It! <i>(Online)</i>	14 Mar, 14:00 – 14:30 ET	
	Robotic Process Automation 101: A Quick Introduction for Integrating RPA in Your Course <i>(Online)</i>	14 Mar, 13:00 – 13:30 ET	
	Simulation and Randomization using StatCrunch <i>(Online)</i>	14 Mar, 13:00 – 13:30 ET	
	Digging into the Data <i>(Online)</i>	08 Mar, 14:00 – 14:30 ET	
	AI, Automation, after COVID-19 <i>(Online)</i>	07 Mar, 15:30 – 16:00 ET	
Alpha Vesta CIC	Core 1: Understanding domestic abuse and its impact <i>(Online)</i>	01 Mar, 23:00 NZDT	Here
	Core 2: The complexity of domestic abuse <i>(Online)</i>	02 Mar, 03:00 NZDT	
	Core 3: Impact of domestic abuse in the workplace <i>(Online)</i>	08 Mar, 23:00 NZDT	
	Core 4: Impact of domestic abuse on children <i>(Online)</i>	09 Mar, 03:00 NZDT	
	Enhanced: Impact of domestic abuse on young people extra familial harm <i>(Online)</i>	13 Mar, 23:00 NZDT	
Milton Escarpment Toastmasters Club	Learn public speaking and leadership skills <i>(Online)</i>	Through March	Here

*Please note that by listing these events we are not endorsing any organisations but rather compiling and sharing a list of resources that may be helpful.

Useful resources

Explore our list of research-related links that will help you throughout your research studies

[A scoping review of the changing landscape of doctoral education](#)

This journal article reviews models of doctoral supervision. The findings highlight that an international move towards more collaborative and structured approaches is identifiable.

[RefSeek](#)

A web search engine for researchers dedicated to academic and educational resources

The Wellington Faculty of Graduate Research (FGR) works to ensure that your experience as a thesis student is a positive one. For more information, visit our [website](#)

FGR

Contact

Postgraduate Research Student Advisers: FGR-postgrads@vuw.ac.nz

- Enrolling in your doctoral or master's programme.
- Candidature management changes.

Online forms for thesis candidature changes can be found [here](#).

Thesis Examinations: FGR-Masters-Exams@vuw.ac.nz or PhD-Exams@vuw.ac.nz

- Submission or examination of theses.

Scholarships and Doctoral Admissions: pg-research@vuw.ac.nz:

- Doctoral applications or the doctoral application process
- Scholarships