

# The Research Room

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October 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*

**Write early and often:** Begin your writing process early by starting with smaller-scale writing tasks and setting achievable word count goals; you do not have to dive into full thesis chapters right away. Whether it is a daily habit or a weekly ritual, the key is to consistently document your progress, detailing your actions, methods, and the challenges you face. This approach is not about producing more papers; it is about honing your writing skills and building a reservoir of content that can be repurposed for future abstracts, papers, or proposals. Follow this advice – it could significantly reduce the time and improve the quality of your paper writing.

*Dr. William Eulath – FGR, VUW*

**Open Access Publishing:** *Tips and tricks.* [Open Access \(OA\)](#) refers to publishing research and data to provide unrestricted access in commercial and non-commercial sources. Material is shared through [Creative Commons licences](#), allowing the reuse and distribution of material, and requiring attribution to the original creator. Open Access includes journal articles, books, chapters, artwork and images, data and software code.

Open Access publishing has many benefits beyond increased citation rates. By removing access barriers such as cost, you can make your work freely available to a wider, more diverse audience, including researchers and students in disadvantaged communities.

It is important to build Open Access options into your publishing plan when you start your research. How to organise and manage your publications across the research lifecycle, from start to finish?

- ✓ **Plan:** Funders have an open research policy, which requires research outputs (including data sets) to be made publicly available after your project's completion. Developing a strategic publishing plan includes targeting open access journals and archiving work in [Victoria University of Wellington's Open Access Institutional Repository](#) to ensure you are compliant with funding agencies. You can publish [Gold Open Access](#) free of article processing charges (APCs) in select journals, as part of our Read and Publish Agreements. [A full list of journals is available on the Library website.](#)
- ✓ **Archive:** Archive all article versions (pre-print, post-print, and published). If you are a co-author, maintain communication with your article's corresponding author in order to retrieve the correct version for your own personal archive. You can deposit a post-print version (peer-reviewed, author-accepted manuscript) into Victoria University of Wellington's Open Access Institutional Repository, free of APCs; this is known as [Green Open Access](#). However, there is often an embargo period, set by the journal. Use [Sherpa Romeo](#) to determine your journal's embargo period.
- ✓ **Share:** All research items shared in our Open Access Institutional Repository have a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). They also link to the published version of the article and the preferred citation. With a DOI, researchers can share their work across several platforms and track the reach, visibility, and

engagement online using [Altmetric Explorer](#). A DOI will collect citation metrics and downloads from academic sources, as well as mentions in news and blogs, social media including X (formerly “Twitter”) and LinkedIn, government policy and patents, and other sources including Wikipedia.

- ✓ October Workshops on Open Access: As part of [International Open Access Week 2023](#) (October 23-29), the Research Services team in the Library will be hosting some workshops on Open Access publishing. This year’s theme is [Community over Commercialisation](#), and “encourages a candid conversation about which approaches to open scholarship prioritize the best interests of the public and the academic community—and which do not.” These workshops will be open to all members of our university community, including our postgraduate students, and advertised in the coming weeks. There are also [a number of online international events](#) that students can attend for free.

The University has an [Open Access Policy](#) and [Guidelines](#) to help you to make an informed decision about making your work “open”. For further information and support, including advice on our Read & Publish Agreements, please contact your [Subject Librarian](#), or the Library Research Services team at [library-research@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:library-research@vuw.ac.nz).

*Dr. Rebekah Galbraith, Library Research Services – Te Pātaka Kōrero, The Library, 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*

### **‘From musician to doctoral scholar: Embracing new beginnings’ – Jerard**

I am an Australian musician who is currently studying piano in the Doctor of Musical Arts degree. As a ‘very’ mature-age student, it was never my intention to pursue doctoral studies. It was nearly 30 years ago that I graduated with my Master of Music degree from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in the U.S. Upon returning to Australia, I enjoyed a well-balanced family and professional life, with a full teaching studio and work as a senior examiner with the Australian Music Examinations Board. However, as with all of life’s experiences, it was not to last. In 2016, I became a full-time carer, an unforeseen role that lasted for 3 years, and like many such circumstances, the time that followed was one of change, adjustment and grief.

Not long after this period of adjustment did Covid arrive, and life threw us all another curve ball. It was during this time, that I found myself practicing and immersing myself in the limitless richness of the piano literature, particularly the music of Robert Schumann. It was within the context of coming to grips with the ‘new normal’ of daily life did a colleague suggest I audition for a place in the DMA program at Victoria. The unbelievable happened, and I was awarded a

Wellington doctoral scholarship, which required me to relocate to NZ.

Moving to New Zealand has been a wonderful experience. It is a beautiful country with a rich cultural heritage. And musically, Victoria offered me the chance to work with Jian Liu, a wonderful performer and pedagogue. Such an experience, however, presented significant personal and professional challenges. Overcoming nerves, feelings of inadequacy after not having performed for many years, and new modes of technology have all been constant obstacles since I began last November. But with the support of my family and supervisors, I have entered the creative stage of the degree, with the likelihood of conducting research next year in Europe and the U.S. I hope that part of this research involves interviewing eminent musicians and pedagogues from various well-established institutions such as the Juilliard school, the Guildhall school of Music and Royal Academy of Music in London, and the faculty of the Gijon festival in Spain. I am so grateful! I have had help every step of the way. In many ways, this opportunity has been a life saver and I am constantly amazed with the circuitous paths which life entails. One never knows what is waiting for us around the corner.

As a student who once lacked confidence when returning to university to pursue doctoral studies, I can attest that this is a path that may have seemed daunting at first, but it's also one filled with remarkable opportunities for personal and professional growth. I encourage you to embrace every opportunity that comes your way. These opportunities may not always be in your original plan, but they can lead to amazing experiences that you might not have foreseen. It's incredible how stepping out of your comfort zone can lead to such enriching experiences. My advice to you is to seize these opportunities and make the most of them!

Furthermore, remember that you are not on this path alone. There are support services available to you, each designed to nurture your growth and success, ranging from research workshops that can enhance your skills to academic and professional staff who are more than

willing to offer their guidance and expertise. Additionally, you'll find a community of fellow peers who are facing similar challenges, each with unique insights and experiences to share. Don't hesitate to ask questions, seek guidance, connect with people, and explore and use all the available resources to ensure your success and growth throughout your doctoral studies.

I wish everyone all the best for their doctoral studies. I hope it is a time of enrichment and professional reward, and that your contribution to the corpus of knowledge benefits your communities in countless ways.

*Jerard Heffernan, NZ School of Music, VUW*

## Useful resources

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

### [Small Steps: Manage your stress](#)

Here you will find some resources and activities that can help you understand and manage stress

## 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
Research Services, The Library, VUW	Publishing Open Access at THW-VUW: Read & Publish Drop in Session <i>(Online)</i>	18 Oct, 13:00 – 14:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Publishing Open Access at Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington: Open Access Repository <i>(Online)</i>	25 Oct, 11:00 – 12:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
Student Learning, VUW	PG Research Skills Seminars 'Ethical Approval' <i>(Online)</i>	3 Oct, 2:10—3:00pm NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	PG Research Seminar; Finetuning your thesis <i>(Online)</i>	10 Oct, 14:10 – 15:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
Careers and Employment, VUW	Live and work in Japan on the JET Programme – Presentation <i>(In-person)</i>	10 Oct, 13:10 – 14:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
Education Now. Harvard Graduate School of Education	Understanding the Relationship Between Parent and Teen Mental Health <i>(Online)</i>	05 Oct, 08:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Planning for College After Affirmative Action <i>(Online)</i>	19 Oct, 08:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>

Organizer	Event	Date and Time	Register
The Third Degree	Topic Identification & Development <i>(Online)</i>	05 Oct, 1:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Designing Your First Survey <i>(Online)</i>	11 Oct, 1:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Cross-Cultural Research <i>(Online)</i>	12 Oct, 1:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
Complete Dissertation by Statistics Solution	How to Construct Quantitative Research Questions and Hypotheses <i>(Online)</i>	05 Oct, 09:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	7 Secrets to Completing Your Dissertation in One Year <i>(Online)</i>	11 Oct, 06:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	General Tips to Fast-Track Quantitative Methodology <i>(Online)</i>	13 Oct, 09:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Attitude, Committee Selection, and Topic Development <i>(Online)</i>	18 Oct, 09:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Present Your Qualitative Results <i>(Online)</i>	20 Oct, 09:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Verifying Statistical Assumptions <i>(Online)</i>	25 Oct, 09:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Why is Theory Important? <i>(Online)</i>	27 Oct, 04:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
Lumivero	Be a productive scholar <i>(Online)</i>	06 Oct, 06:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Stats User Group - How to Extract Insights From Text Data <i>(Online)</i>	05 Oct, 23:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	@Risk Power & Utilities User Group <i>(Online)</i>	06 Oct, 05:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Map Out Your Scholarly Path <i>(Online)</i>	06 Oct, 06:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Illuminating Probabilistic Risk in Renewable Energy: An @RISK Approach based on Renewable Energy Risk Modelling <i>(Online)</i>	18 Oct, 05:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Long-Range Growth Plan: Assessing Annual Growth Targets for Commercial Products and Pipeline Projects using @RISK <i>(Online)</i>	19 Oct, 05:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Productive Research Approaches <i>(Online)</i>	20 Oct, 06:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Joint Displays to Facilitate Integration in Mixed Methods Research <i>(Online)</i>	24 Oct, 12:00 EDT	<a href="#">Here</a>
How to Build a Strong Storytelling for Your Projects <i>(Online)</i>	27 Oct, 05:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>	
Google Garage	CV's and Cover letters <i>(Online)</i>	10 Oct, 04:30 GMT	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Create videos for YouTube <i>(Online)</i>	12 Oct, 12:00 GMT 27 Oct, 16:00 GMT	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Find your balance with technology <i>(Online)</i>	06 Oct, 05:00 GMT	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Boost your productivity with AI <i>(Online)</i>	03 Oct, 04:00 GMT 11 Oct, 21:00 GMT 01 Oct, 16:00 GMT	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Understanding Machine Learning <i>(Online)</i>	03 Oct, 05:00 GMT 11 Oct, 22:00 GMT	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Protect yourself online <i>(Online)</i>	10 Oct, 22:00 GMT	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Build engaging presentations <i>(Online)</i>	20 Oct, 21:30 GMT	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Digital marketing strategy <i>(Online)</i>	04 Oct, 04:00 GMT 23 Oct, 21:00 GMT	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Build your personal brand online <i>(Online)</i>	02 Oct, 23:00 London	<a href="#">Here</a>

Organizer	Event	Date and Time	Register
Taylor & Francis	Authorship, Conflicts of Interest, and AI (Online)	12 Oct, 20:30 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
NR Computer Learning Center	Microsoft Excel: Basic to Advanced Features Overview	09 Oct, 10:30 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Excel: Building a Dashboard in an Hour	16 Oct, 10:30 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Using Microsoft Power BI to develop Reports	23 Oct, 10:30 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Introduction to Data Analytics	16 Oct, 09:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Introduction to SQL	23 Oct, 09:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
The Education Hub	Educational technology and inequality	03 Oct, 20:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Curriculum, substantive knowledge, and the disciplines	09 Oct, 20:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Autism and culturally responsive practice (Online)	18 Oct, 20:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>

\*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.



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](#)

#### Contact

Postgraduate Research Student Advisers: [FGR-postgrads@vuw.ac.nz](mailto: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](mailto:FGR-Masters-Exams@vuw.ac.nz) or [PhD-Exams@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:PhD-Exams@vuw.ac.nz)

- Submission or examination of theses.

Scholarships and Doctoral Admissions: [pg-research@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:pg-research@vuw.ac.nz):

- Doctoral applications or the doctoral application process
- Scholarships