

The Research Room

March 2024

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

Stay informed

Navigating the dynamic landscape of education can be quite a challenge, but staying informed is half the battle won. Being well-informed about current news and issues not only enhances your understanding of the challenges and opportunities in higher education but also equips you to contribute meaningfully to ongoing conversations and debates.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) stands out as an invaluable resource for accessing hard-hitting news related to higher education. The platform not only provides up-to-date information but also offers a diverse range of content, including editorials, podcasts, blogs, data compilations, job postings, and special reports. Inside Higher Ed thus emerges as an excellent companion for those navigating the complexities and developments within the ever-evolving landscape of higher education.

Dr. William Eulatth – FGR, Victoria University of Wellington

Open Access Toolkit

Open access publishing is crucial as it ensures that valuable scholarly knowledge is freely accessible to a global audience, fostering collaboration, innovation, and democratizing information dissemination in the academic community.

Dive into the world of Open Access publishing at the upcoming workshop hosted by the Library. This workshop follows the Library's announcement of [new Read & Publish Agreements for 2024](#) and the official launch of the Open Access toolkit (available under ["Publishing OA: Tips and Tricks"](#)), and aims to give researchers a comprehensive introduction to the world of Open Access publishing. This workshop will explore how Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington's Open Access Policy and Read & Publish agreements support researchers to make their work openly accessible. Researchers will be guided through our institutional repository and how to use Elements to deposit their work. Finally, we will discuss the principles of Open Access publishing, including Copyright and Creative Commons licensing, and highlight the value of equity, visibility, and collaboration in making research accessible.

This online workshop will be held on the 19th March at 11am. You can [register here](#). Please sign up with your VUW email address and also note that this session will be recorded, and the recording will be sent to all registered attendees. For more information, please contact a [Research Services Librarian](#).

Research Services Team – The Library, Victoria University of Wellington

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

Navigating Storms: A Ph.D. journey through pandemic, parenthood, and perseverance – Rabia



As I set foot on the vibrant shores of New Zealand in March 2020, little did I know that the world was about to face an unprecedented challenge—the COVID-19 pandemic. The excitement of beginning my doctoral journey mingled with the surreal realisation that my PhD would unfold amidst a rapidly evolving global landscape.

The first few months were a blend of academic anticipation and adjusting to a new cultural landscape, all while the pandemic cast its long shadow over our daily lives. Stepping into my Ph.D. journey during these uncertain times meant not only embracing academic expectations but also navigating the joys and responsibilities of caring for my two-month-old baby—a challenge unlike any other.

Working closely with my supervisor, we evaluated initial timelines and milestones, acknowledging the need for a more flexible approach. Remote work strategies became essential, enabling me to conduct literature reviews and data analysis from the comfort of my home, ensuring a steady momentum in my research pursuits.

Amidst the whirlwind of lockdowns triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent closure of international borders, my Ph.D. journey transformed

into an unforeseen and emotionally taxing odyssey. Losing my father, the driving force behind my pursuit of a Ph.D., intensified the struggle, layering grief onto an already challenging situation. One of the most heart-wrenching consequences of the pandemic was the impossibility of attending my father's funeral, depriving me of the chance to bid a final farewell to the man who had shaped my academic ambitions.

Every step forward in my Ph.D. journey felt like an uphill climb, every achievement tinged with the bitter realisation that my father's physical presence would never witness my progress again. Yet, there was a silent observer—my baby, the silent witness to my balancing act between research and parenting. Amidst the demands of academia and the complicated dance of research, a true unsung hero emerged—my husband. His unwavering support and selflessness became the bedrock of my Ph.D. journey. From sleepless nights with our newborn to shouldering the weight of household chores, he seamlessly navigated the intricacies of family life, allowing me to focus on my academic pursuits.

The climax of my Ph.D. journey unfolded unexpectedly with a joyous revelation—I found out I was pregnant! Balancing experiments, thesis writing, and pregnancy felt like passing through a storm, presenting a unique set of challenges.

Yet, amidst all these challenges, my supervisor's support was crucial in balancing my academic and personal life. Furthermore, the university's extensive assistance—from student support services to the hardship fund, student learning center, and international services—proved invaluable. These pillars of support not only offered practical aid but also fostered a sense of belonging within the academic community.

As I approached the final stages of my Ph.D., I faced the climax of my efforts with a mix of anticipation and the joys of impending motherhood. The day of my thesis submission arrived, and fate had an extraordinary surprise in store—I welcomed my newborn just after submitting my thesis. With a one-month-old baby beside me, I stood before my Ph.D. committee,

symbolising not only academic achievement but also the resilience and collaboration that defined my journey.

As I continue to reflect on those days, I carry forward not only a doctorate but a rich tapestry of experiences that shaped my approach to challenges and my understanding of the delicate balance between professional aspirations and personal responsibilities. The cap and gown on my graduation day represent not only academic success but also the realization of a dream that transcended generations. This journey was

more than an intellectual pursuit—it was a testament to resilience forged amidst personal loss, parenting challenges, and the emerging shadow of a global pandemic. I did it! And the feeling is indescribably gratifying.

To all of you, I would say: Be prepared to face unique challenges head-on, but also embrace the triumphs that await you!

Rabia Bibi, School of Biological Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington

Useful resources

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

[Think Check Submit](#)

Choose trusted journals when publishing your research. Explore a variety of tools and practical resources through this international initiative that strives to instruct researchers, foster integrity, and instil confidence in reliable research and publications.

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
Student Learning, Victoria University of Wellington	Thinking critically (<i>In person</i>)	05 Mar, 10:00 – 11:50 NZST	Here
	Research Proposals (<i>In person</i>)	06 Mar, 14:10 – 15:00 NZST	Here
	Academic speaking (<i>In person</i>)	06 Mar, 15:10 – 16:00 NZST	Here
	Literature reviews (<i>In person</i>)	12 Mar, 14:10 – 15:00 NZST	Here
	Ethical approval (<i>In person</i>)	19 Mar, 14:10 – 15:00 NZST	Here
	Quantitative research (<i>In person</i>)	26 Mar, 14:10 – 15:00 NZST	Here
Research Office, Victoria University of Wellington	Drop-in session: How to apply for human ethics approval (<i>Online and in-person</i>)	06 Mar, 11:00 NZST	Here
Lumivero	Using Citavi for a Literature Review (<i>Online</i>)	05 Mar, 15:00 CET	Here
	How to design a web survey: Evidence-based do's and don'ts (<i>Online</i>)	06 Mar, 16:00 CET	Here
	NVivo databases and beyond in the Humanities (<i>Online</i>)	12 Mar, 17:00 CET	Here
	Conducting a meta-synthesis of qualitative studies: Methods and approaches (<i>Online</i>)	27 Mar, 17:00 CET	Here
	Thematic analysis using NVivo (<i>Online</i>)	28 Mar, 17:00 CET	Here
Google Garage	Understanding machine learning (<i>Online</i>)	05 Mar, 09:30 UK time	Here
	Boost your productivity with AI (<i>Online</i>)	05 Mar, 11:00 UK time	Here
	Telling stories with data visualisation (<i>Online</i>)	11 Mar, 10:00 UK time	Here
	Decision-making with data (<i>Online</i>)	11 Mar, 12:00 UK time	Here

Organizer	Event	Date and Time	Register
Sage Research Methods Community	How to write a paper: Qualitative methodology (<i>Online</i>)	07 Mar, 05:00 NZST	Here
Taylor & Francis	Editor Spotlight: Getting published in Education journals (<i>Online</i>)	13 Mar, 21:00 NZST	Here
	Excellence in peer review: How to be an effective peer reviewer (<i>Online</i>)	27 Mar, 21:30 NZST	Here
European Network for Academic Integrity	Ethical and inclusive approaches to student use of Artificial Intelligence (<i>Online</i>)	13 Mar, 13:00 – 14:00 CET	Here
UK Data Service	Dissertation projects: Introduction to secondary analysis for qualitative and quantitative data (<i>Online</i>)	11 Mar, 23:00 NZST	Here
Education Now: Harvard Graduate School of Education	Nurturing relationships in early childhood (<i>Online</i>)	07 Mar, 09:00 NZST	Here
Education and Training	Research Week (<i>Online</i>)	18 – 21 Mar, UK Time	Here
OECD	Diversity + Quality = Equity? A complex equation for early childhood education and care (<i>Online</i>)	05 Mar, 02:30 NZST	Here
	Launch of the PISA-VET Framework: A global milestone in future-ready professional skills (<i>Online</i>)	19 Mar, 23:00 NZST	Here
University of Phoenix	Writing effective Cover Letters (<i>Online</i>)	13 Mar, 11:00 – 12:00 NZST	Here
	How to help get your resume noticed (<i>Online</i>)	05 Mar, 11:00 – 12:00 NZST	Here
	How to grow your professional network (<i>Online</i>)	01 Mar, 09:00 – 10:00 NZST	Here
Skills and Job Centre @ RMIT	How to write a resume (<i>Online</i>)	19 Mar, 19:00 – 20:00 NZST	Here
Flexible Learning Association of New Zealand	Collaborating with ChatGPT on your team (<i>Online</i>)	21 Mar, 13:00 – 14:00 NZST	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.

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