

# The Research Room

---

June 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*

### **Transition from ResearchMaster to Hōkai**

The current ethics management system, ResearchMaster, is approaching end of life and needs to be replaced before it is unsupported by the vendor. ResearchMaster provides postgraduate candidature management and functionality for the management of the University's human/animal ethics process.

The [ResearchMaster replacement project](#) is preparing to launch the new ethics management system, named Hōkai. This new platform supports our existing practices, and the processes for Human Ethics and Animal Ethics will not change. To limit the disruption for our researchers, both systems will be accessible for a period. Visit [Hōkai ethics management](#) for information about the new system including key dates and deadlines for transition from ResearchMaster to Hōkai.

### **Update on the new research candidate management system, Panoho**

The ResearchMaster Replacement project and the Faculty of Graduate Research have been working with our vendor, Cayuse, to configure the Graduate Education Manager system to meet University requirements. Learn more about the new [research candidate management system, Panoho](#).

*Zoë Lenihan-Geels – Digital Solutions, 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*

### **From doubts to triumph – Lingli**

Back on February 27, 2017, I hopped on a flight bound for New Zealand to kickstart my PhD journey. It was a big step, and I made the tough call not to bring along my 4-year-old child. I wasn't entirely sure how long I'd be staying or if I could transition from provisional to full registration. If I couldn't whip up a solid research proposal within 12 months, that would've been it. Quite the gamble, right?

Under all that pressure, I found myself bouncing from one research topic to another, hoping to stumble upon a good one as quickly as possible. During meetings with my supervisors, I constantly asked: 'Can I pursue this? What about exploring this alternative?' and 'Can I actually do this?' Then, one day, my primary supervisor sat me down for a serious chat. She said, **'It's alright to feel overwhelmed, but research is a commitment. If you're not fully committed, it's hard to succeed.'**

Since then, I started to focus on one area and did a thorough review of the literature. Every couple of weeks, my supervisor would check in and ask for a summary of my recent readings. This routine continued for about two months. Then came the big moment when my supervisor said, 'Alright, it's time for your own research plan. What's your game plan and how do you intend to execute it?'

Exciting news—I finished drafting my research plan and had a chat about it with my supervisors. They were super engaged, firing off questions like: 'Why this topic?' 'What's the reasoning behind it?' and 'Why tackle it this way instead of other methods?' Whenever I tossed a question back at them, they'd casually throw back, 'What's your take on it?' I have to admit, I felt a bit cornered at first, unsure how to respond. But you know what? Over time, I realized the importance of being prepared for their inquiries and having some possible answers ready to roll before I even ask my own questions. ***It's all about staying a step ahead!***

While the discussions were tough at times, I truly felt they boosted my ability to think independently and made me more mindful of the importance of backing up my arguments. These skills are must-haves for any researcher, particularly when it comes to shaping your thesis and preparing papers for publication. As a student, I was used to following instructions and having clear direction in my tasks. But stepping into the shoes of an independent researcher has been a journey of significant personal growth for me.

Seven months passed since I signed up as a doctoral student, but I still hadn't finished my research proposal. Interestingly, in that same span, my 70-year-old father managed to build a house from the ground up, all before I made much progress in my studies. This striking comparison really drove home the challenges of research. Unlike projects with instruction manuals or

clear steps to follow, ***research calls for creativity and involves lots of reading and thinking things over.***

Three more months passed, and I finally completed my research proposal, which got the nod of approval from the School Research Committee!. My secondary supervisor shared this wonderful news with me, as my primary supervisor was on leave at the time. I couldn't contain my excitement! I remember vividly that I was right in the middle of my Candidate Development Plan (CDP) session with her when she broke the news. During the session, she asked me to rate my performance over the past six months. I rated myself as Good. To my surprise, she responded, 'Why didn't you give yourself a Very Good? I truly believe you deserve it' I was astonished. My supervisor considered me very good! Despite challenging me with numerous questions, she still had such a positive view of my performance.

Absolutely! I earned the trust of my supervisors through sheer hard work. I managed to secure the passport necessary to continue my doctoral studies, something I wasn't sure was even possible when I first arrived in New Zealand. But I didn't give up! I was over the moon, truly ecstatic. Regardless of what the rest of the journey held; I took the first step!

Remember, ***self-doubt is just a hurdle in the journey, not the destination itself.*** You've got this! Trust in your abilities, believe in your potential, and keep moving forward with determination. Every step you take brings you closer to your goals. So, banish those doubts, embrace your strengths, and seize the opportunities that come your way. You are capable of achieving great things, so don't hold back—go out there and show the world what you're made of!

*Dr Lingli Du, School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Victoria University of Wellington*

## Useful resources

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

### [Eisenhower Matrix](#)

The Eisenhower Matrix enhances time management by prioritizing tasks into four categories: 'urgent and important', 'important but not urgent', 'urgent but not important', and 'neither urgent nor important'. Prioritizing high-priority tasks reduces time spent on less critical activities, boosting productivity and reducing stress when managing workload.

# 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
<b>Research Services Team, Victoria University of Wellington</b>	Making your work Open: Understanding funder and institutional Open Access requirements <i>(Online)</i>	18 June, 11:00 – 12:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Lumivero</b>	An Introduction to Constructivist Grounded Theory <i>(Online)</i>	05 June, 04:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Next-Level Tips for Grant Seeking and Writing Fundable Grant Applications <i>(Online)</i>	06 June, 06:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Sage Research Methods Community</b>	How to write and structure an article's front matter <i>(Online)</i>	27 June, 03:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Taylor &amp; Francis</b>	Excellence in peer review: how to be an effective peer reviewer <i>(Online)</i>	19 June, 20:30 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>UK Data Service</b>	Enhancing longitudinal data sharing: Data management strategies and best practices (I) <i>(Online)</i>	04 June, 21:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Consent issues in data sharing <i>(Online)</i>	05 June, 21:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Enhancing longitudinal data sharing: Data management strategies and best practices (II) <i>(Online)</i>	06 June, 21:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Survey data drop-in <i>(Online)</i>	06 June, 23:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Best practices for documenting social sciences research data <i>(Online)</i>	18 June, 21:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>4eu+ European University Alliance</b>	The FAIR principles in science, technology and engineering – How to write a good Data Management Plan for FAIR research data <i>(Online)</i>	13 June, 14:00 – 15:00 Europe	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Open research software - how to disseminate it? <i>(Online)</i>	19 June, 15:00 – 16:30 Europe	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Community Research</b>	Tautoko Session - All Researchers	27 June, 11:00 – 12:30 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
	Matariki Hauora – Celebration of You, Whānau & Workplaces	11 June, 12:00 – 13:00	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Science Media Centre</b>	Tips on communicating your research & Social media and online safety	27 June, 10:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>UKRIO Research Integrity Office</b>	Science communication and research integrity	26 June, 21:00 – 22:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>WIRe</b>	Anticipating Growth: Cultivating a Portfolio Career"	25 June, 10:00 PT	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>LIANZA</b>	Generative AI and Copyright	19 June, 13:00 – 14:00 NZST	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT</b>	Fundamental Concepts in Artificial Intelligence for Real World Applications <i>(Online)</i>	08 June, 05:00 – 06:00 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.

# FGR

*The 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.*

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

- *Doctoral applications or the doctoral application process*
- *Scholarships*

*Learning and Development: [william.eulatthvidal@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:william.eulatthvidal@vuw.ac.nz)*