WEEKLY DIGEST - HDR

Updates – 1 June

RSPhys HDR remote working during COVID-19 – Student survey response summary

In April the HDR team sent a survey to all the HDR students, to understand/monitor the impact of remote working has had on their research program. Here is a brief summary of the survey, based on the responses from 64 HDR students in the school.

Graduate Research Office has created a list of Frequently Asked Questions to help students navigate the administration and support options available to them. See here for further details.

RSPhys Student Reps

Last week we held the first meeting with our new Student Reps. Please feel free to approach them with your ideas for our student community or concerns that they can take to the HDR Admin team and the School Executive. We are so fortunate to have a great group of students who have volunteered to be your student reps:

Zoe Cheong – LPC
Mahdi Davoodianidalk – CPF
Disha Kapasi - DQS
Alexander Kiy – EME
Shridhar Manjunath – NLPC
Ms Eliza Melik-Gaykazyan - NLPC
Marika Niihori – EME
Ben Swinton-Bland – NP

Slack for Physics HDR students and supervisors

Subscribe to the Physics HDR Family Slack collaboration hub at anuphysichdrfamily.slack.com via this link you have not done already.

Innovating in a Time of Crisis

When: 10.30am-12pm (AEST), Wednesday 3 June 2020
Where: Online via Zoom, register for link.

APR.Intern and CSIRO invite you to learn more about the industry trends forecasted to follow COVID-19, growth opportunities and how digitalisation can help future-proof Australian business.

Participants in this valuable webinar will gain:

Keynote: Dr Stefan Hajkowicz on the post-pandemic digital economy, addressing new research on digitalisation, innovation lessons from the Roaring Twenties and why businesses must embrace R&D as we adjust to a new normal. An overview of APR.Intern, Innovation Connections and Kick-Start; R&D funding available through each program and the benefits of collaborating with academia. Case Studies; how industry leaders are utilising these government-supported programs to accelerate their digital business journeys.

Register Now: https://aprintern.org.au/events-csiro/

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Updates – 18 May

As we gradually return to researching on campus, it is important that supervisors remain in regular contact with HDR candidates. The stress and uncertainty associated with COVID-19 is likely having an impact on a candidate’s wellbeing. The remote working period poses additional challenges for
HDR supervisors in supporting students to maintain their progress, motivation and wellbeing. The HDR Supervision Portal now provides additional resources and advice for remote supervision, as well as about COVID-19-related mental health issues. Amongst them are a recording of and slides from Dr Shari Walsh’s very helpful recent workshop, Simple strategies for supporting HDR students’ mental health. From Prof Keith Nugent DVC (RI)

- **HDR Supervision Development**

Although our face-to-face workshops have been suspended for the duration of remote working arrangements, HDR supervisors can continue to access online HDR Supervision Development resources. These include the HDR Supervision at ANU module required for HDR supervisor registration (by 31 December 2020), and the HDR Supervision Portal. The Foundations of HDR Supervision workshops, a registration requirement for those new to HDR supervision, have been suspended during the remote working period. In the meantime, the Supervising Doctoral Studies modules available through the HDR Supervision Portal are an informative resource.

- **Two online panels** in May will share good practice in HDR supervision – focusing on STEM (11 May) and HASS (18 May). Please join us to share your experiences – details and registration here.

Please contact the HDR Supervision Development Team (Peter Kanowski, Jacqui Hoepner, and Justin Wood) at hdr.supervision@anu.edu.au with any questions, suggestions or requests.

- **HDR Supervisor of the Month**

Many April HDR Supervisor of the Month nominations recognised the efforts of supervisors under remote working arrangements. We congratulate joint awardees Associate Professor Rob Lanfear (Biology), Professor Hugh O’Neil (Earth Sciences) and Dr Sonia Pertsinidis (Classics), each of whom have demonstrated outstanding practice in supervision and candidate support under the ‘new normal’. Read more about their approaches to HDR supervision here.

- **HDR Update**

The ANU Researcher Development team have provided an update for HDR Candidates here.

**Updates – 11 May**

- **COVID-19 Extension Scholarship**

The University has recently announced a new COVID-19 Extension Scholarship which is intended for HDR candidates who are approaching the end of their ANU funded base stipend scholarship (3.5 years).

Comprehensive information on the eligibility for the scholarship and application process is outlined at https://www.anu.edu.au/covid-19-advice/research/hdr-candidates.

*Please note that the university will not be able to provide this extension to everyone. There will need to be a very strong case made that outlines the impact of extreme disruption related to*
Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, campus closure and travel restrictions have been imposed. Therefore, before lodging an application, students are strongly encouraged to discuss the state of their research project with their supervisors and the Associate Director HDR (Prof Lan Fu at RSPhys). It is important to ensure that they have considered all available options to reframe their research as a viable HDR project in light of COVID-19 disruptions.

The final decision will be made by the Dean HDR and may be approved, not approved or approved with an amended duration. The candidate may appeal any decision to the DVC (R&I).

Below are some scenarios that help clarify who can apply for this scholarship (provided a solid case is made) and when.

- Student A – scholarship expired on 31 December 2019 – they CANNOT apply for the new scholarship.
- Student B – scholarship expired on 01 February 2020 – they can apply for the new COVID-19 Extension Scholarship today.
- Student C – scholarship expires on 01 June 2020 – they can apply for the new COVID-19 Extension Scholarship just before 01 June 2020.
- Student E – scholarship expires on 31 December 2021 – they can apply for the new COVID-19 Extension Scholarship just before 31 December 2021.
- Student F – scholarship expires on 01 January 2022 – they CANNOT apply for the new scholarship.

Please do not hesitate to contact RSPhys HDR team if you have any questions.

**Slack - HDR Collaboration at Physics Update**

HDR Collaboration at Physics Update [anuphysicshdrfamily.slack.com](http://anuphysicshdrfamily.slack.com)

The ANU Physics HDR Family Slack collaboration hub is intended as a communication channel and collaboration tool for RSPhys HDR students, admin team and supervisors and we encourage all students to join.

This Slack hub has been created to help you connect and share information during the period of remote work and study but is likely to remain a useful tool and an alternative to email communications after we return to campus.

Students who are yet to join can do so using the updated link here.

**Nicolas Baudin Internship Program in France**

Call for applications for the Nicolas Baudin Program is open until 15 June 2020. The Embassy of France in Australia strongly encourages students to apply now to make the most of these opportunities available as soon as travel recommences!
**Internships in France**

The internship supervisors have indicated that the proposed starting dates of these internships are flexible and are able to be postponed, according to the eventual reopening of borders. We will announce laureates in July and students can contact the supervisors to negotiate the dates of their internship. A number of these research internships may also be offered either partially or totally online if necessary. A list of internship offers is available [here](#).

**General Program**

Students planning exchange or degree programs in France in the second half of 2020 can apply for the Nicolas Baudin travel grant. We will announce laureates in July, on the premise that Semester 2 exchanges will go ahead. The embassy is continuing to follow the developments and have reopened applications for 2020 in the hypothesis that international travel will be possible again and that the public health situation will allow France to welcome Australian students in the best conditions possible.

**Updates – 4 May**

- **Virtual Event with VC - Tuesday 5 May @ 4:15pm**
  
  The Vice-Chancellor is regularly meeting with HDR candidates to discuss how our community is working with the new campus environment. This is an opportunity to ask questions, meet fellow students and provide feedback on anything that may be impacting you. You might also just want to hear about upcoming projects and what else is happening around ANU. Register [HERE](#).

- **Higher Degree Research Supervision Resources and Events**
  
  *Resources to support remote supervision:* See suite of helpful resources in the [HDR Supervision Portal](#).

  *Best Practice in STEM Supervision Panel: Sharing HDR supervision stories from science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)*

  Join us via Zoom for this panel featuring insights from ANU colleagues recognised for their standing in supervisory practice, including recent HDR Supervisor of the Month awardees and HDR Conveners. The panel will explore both STEM discipline-specific and cross-disciplinary understanding and learning about good supervisory practice.

  Panellists include: Professor Lan Fu (RSPhys), Dr Hieu Nguyen (CECS) and Professor Spencer Whitney (RSB).

  **Date/time:** 11 May, 2pm–3:30pm. Register for this workshop. This workshop will be delivered via Zoom ([Zoom information](#)).

**Updates – 27 April**

The following information has been established to assist HDR candidates for the period of 26 March to 27 June 2020, whilst the University is functioning remotely. It includes administration, research, and financial support.

**Updates – 20 April**

- **The HDR team is delighted to welcome the new student representatives:**
  
  Zoe Cheong – LPC
  
  Mahdi Davoodianidalik – CPF
It is wonderful to see such a big group of students genuinely willing to make a positive contribution! We thank them for volunteering their time to fulfil this important role in the School community and look forward to working with them! With so many hands on deck we will surely be able to achieve great things! The student reps speak on behalf of the HDR cohort at School and College level forums, such as the quarterly Heads of Departments meetings and School Forum and help facilitate the flow of information to and from staff and students in the School. This role provides an opportunity for the students to raise issues and concerns with the School Executive and provide input into discussions from a student perspective. They also assist with the organisation of HDR events at the School level.

We would like to sincerely thank our outgoing reps Lauren, Rowena, Jia and James for their tireless work over the last few years and wish them all the best as they move into the last stages of their PhD.

- **Mentor early-career researchers** through this challenging year. They need your help to refocus, re-scope and restart. You can gain a better understanding of the issues people face. One way you can do that is to enroll in the ANU NECTAR Mentoring Program which is funded by all ANU Colleges. We have 132 mentees and 80 mentors so far. [Enroll as a mentor here, by end of April.](#) We would also welcome you to invite your alumni and collaborators who have moved into non-academic spheres to be mentors.

- **Safe spaces for ANU staff and students** - We have all been affected by the work and study from home arrangements. It is possible that during these uncertain times that some staff or students in your areas may be at heightened vulnerability or risk and requiring additional support. [Please read the email provided here from the Director of HR.](#)

- **HDR - Working Party Terms of Reference - coming soon**

**Updates – 13 April**

- **Wellbeing:** The HDR team has been contacting our HDR students to check on their wellbeing and to ensure they have the level of support they need. If there are any concerns for individual students, please contact the team on [hdr.physics@anu.edu.au](mailto:hdr.physics@anu.edu.au).

- **Contact details:** Students are reminded to please check and update your contact details and emergency contacts in ISIS as soon as possible. It is vital in the current circumstances that we have your current contact details so that we can reach you when necessary.

- **Student e-Form:** A reminder to students to fill in the eform to help the university provide support to them. This will give the university up-to-date information on your current health, travel and study situation. This important information will be kept private and will assist our teams to support you as circumstances on campus and in the wider community change. [Access the form here.](#)

- **Milestones:** A reminder that all HDR milestones that have an oral presentation component, such as Thesis Proposal Reviews, Mid-Term Reviews, Final Oral Presentations should continue as planned. Please contact the HDR team for assistance with setting up the online seminars on [hdr.physics@anu.edu.au](mailto:hdr.physics@anu.edu.au).

- **Fight COVID-19:** Are you interested in participating in a project that is recruiting people to donate their computer power to fight COVID-19? [Check out the details here.](#)

- **Panel Discussion:** Wondering what’s next for you? Not sure what to do post-university? You’re not alone. Join a panel discussion on Wednesday 22nd April, 10:00 - 11:30. [Register your interest here.](#)
Updates – 6 April

- **Invitation to join slack - ANU Physics HDR Family** - the HDR team have created a Slack collaboration hub for all research students to join, please sign up today.

- HDR Supervisor of the month - nominate your supervisor now. *The ANU HDR Supervision Framework supports the HDR Supervisor of the Month award to recognise, celebrate and share good supervisory practice. The Award is also open to professional staff who support HDR students. You can make your Supervisor of the Month nomination here.*

- **Financial Assistance** - grants for undergrad and post-grad students available through PARSA

- **ANU Academic Skills Centre RSPhys Writing Workshops 17/4/2020**

- **Student Research Milestones**

  Congratulations to the students who have successfully presented their Thesis Proposal Review seminars on Zoom on Thursday 2 April and Friday 3 April! Well done Shridhar, Xilin, Eve, Lachie, Nathan, David, Felicity, Campbell, Alexander and Ida! Thank you to all the panel members who attended the seminars. Now that we have successfully tested this new way of doing business, mid-term reviews and final oral presentations will also be conducted remotely. If your mid-term review or final oral presentation is coming up, please get in touch with the Student Admin team on hdr.physics@anu.edu.au and we will assist you with setting it up.

- **University Update for HDR students** The University has provided an update to HDR students, in particular with the question of program and scholarship extensions among other matters. If you are unsure about how this relates to you, please get in touch with us (hdr.physics@anu.edu.au).

- **International students and program leave** If you are not able to continue working on your research you should consider leave of absence – please see the information page on HDR Candidature Program Management – [research program leave](https://parsa.anu.edu.au/news/article/6027/PARSA-Covid-19-Update/) options. PARSA also have a migration lawyer who can provide support: [https://parsa.anu.edu.au/news/article/6027/PARSA-Covid-19-Update/](https://parsa.anu.edu.au/news/article/6027/PARSA-Covid-19-Update/) To apply for leave please complete the Manage My Degree-HDR ‘Apply for leave’ eForm, via ISIS.

Updates – 30 March

- The Heads will meet to discuss a “community chest” to be used for assistance packages.
- Students looking to defer or now have lost employment should speak to Convenors about solutions to prove financial assistance.
- The ANU Dean HDR has confirmed that all HDR students will have the access to research program and scholarship extensions of 6 months – more details will be provided and clarified in the coming week.
• The school HDR team is preparing an information sheet to address the possible HDR related questions due to remote working.
• To keep us all stay connected and support each other in the HDR community, a Slack collaboration hub on “ANU Physics HDR Family” has been setup. Soon we will send the invite link to all the HDR students followed by supervisors. We strongly encourage all the HDR students and supervisors to join and connect with each other.
• The HDR team is working remotely from home to ensure continuity of our roles. Over the coming months you can continue to engage with us via the normal email (hdr.physics@anu.edu.au) and phone (the same numbers) options.
• You are able to see all your students in ISIS (not HORUS) which can be accessed via https://isis.anu.edu.au, and the HDR team will send you a list of your students (if you role is Chair or Primary Supervisor).
• If there are any concerns to report, please report them by mid-day Friday by emailing hdr.physics@anu.edu.au.

**Digest of past updates**

**Wed, 25/3**

Please be assured that the School fully understands the potential impact from the upcoming remote working period on your research projects, especially for those whose projects heavily rely on experimental facilities. We will certainly take this into consideration while making decisions on program and scholarship extensions. In the meanwhile, please also take this period of time for reflection and preparation. We can still do lots of reading, writing and thinking. They are essential parts of our research, but are often overlooked during our busy life of “doing research on experiments”. We encourage students to take this time to read literature, understand research methodologies and approaches, write up papers and thesis. We also encourage you to go ahead with your planned milestone reviews, in particular the thesis proposal review, mid-term review, and final PhD seminar. The HDR team will help facilitate the seminar organisation and presentation via zoom.

**FAQs (will be updated continuously)**

*What can I do if I can’t work from home?*

This can be for any number of reasons ranging from constant distractions or that you don’t have the necessary equipment. In the first instance speak to your supervisor or Head. A list of Department and School based tasks is being developed. You may well be able to lend your expertise to another group and we would rather you gainfully engage than be on leave or at loose end.

**Communication channels**

• A Slack hub will be set up for supervisors as an alternative means of communicating regular information and the link to join will be sent in the next couple of days. Microsoft Teams and Zoom also offer excellent screen sharing capabilities and are the only approved tools. Internal Physics drives, CloudStor and ANU email are the only methods you should be using to exchange data with. Please do not use any other software to share ANU data. *Cybersecurity remains a very active concern over this period.*

• All Departmental Administrators are still available for assistance during the remote working period. Your Head of Department will be in touch with the whole group periodically. Departmental morning teas, meetings and seminars should still proceed.
Supervisors will be reminded each Monday by the Director to schedule a catchup with group members, students and technical staff. Each Friday the Director will send a follow-up email request that you report back to your Head if these scheduled meetings have occurred. The Director will be frequently in touch with Heads to discuss their Department.