

The Research Room

September 2025

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

Publish Open Access for free

Are you interested in publishing your work open access with major academic publishers without paying an [article processing charge](#) (APC)? Te Pātaka Kōrero - The Library subscribes to Read & Publish (R&P) Agreements with several academic publishers, including Elsevier, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, Wiley, and Sage. You can find the full list of our current agreements on the [Read & Publish agreements page](#).

Thanks to these agreements, academic staff and PhD students can publish their work open access without paying an APC. To qualify, simply submit your manuscript to one of the participating publishers using your staff email address (ending with @vuw.ac.nz) so the publisher can confirm your eligibility.

Pro tip: Not all the journal titles are included in the R&P agreement with a given publisher. Before submitting, search for the journal you'd like to publish in using [this title list](#) and be sure to set the institution filter to *Victoria University of Wellington*.

Koichi Inoue, 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

Why postgraduate life needs more than research—Vlad

When I first arrived at Vic Uni, the doctoral induction speeches mentioned loneliness as something to watch out for. I brushed it off—after all, I had just spent six weeks riding solo across the U.S. on a motorcycle. If I could handle that, how could I possibly feel lonely here? I figured I'd be too busy with work for it to matter.

But a few months into my PhD, the reality set in. I gave the university-run events a go, but most were geared toward undergrads, with the usual cold, stale pizza. I turned to the Meetup app and found hobbies like combat archery and public speaking—but what I really craved, what I thought a PhD would bring, was the company of curious brilliant minds to share ideas with.

That's when I stumbled on the nearly forgotten Postgraduate Students' Association (PGSA). I ran unopposed for the VP role. Working with the

existing g budget available, I began organizing talks, coffee catchups, and hikes. At first, it was just a few postgrads peeking nervously through the doorway. But slowly, things began to change. Volunteers stepped forward, the range of activities grew, and before long, each event buzzed with conversation,, laughter, and new friendships.

Then came the moment that tested everything. Due to shifting priorities, our initiative wasn't included in the budget at that time. It felt like everything we had built was about to collapse under the weight of a single line in a spreadsheet. I prepared to advocate for what we'd started—but I wasn't alone. The people I had built this for—and eventually built it with—stood by my side. ***The strength we need doesn't always come from within; sometimes, it's found in the people around us.*** That's the lesson I carry with me: ***Build something real, share it, and trust those who walk alongside you. Sometimes, it's community that carries us through.***

So why share this story? Because I know how quickly a PhD can turn isolating—and how much difference a community can make.

Come along to an event—you might just meet people who not only enrich your PhD journey but also become part of your life beyond it. Your university experience should be more than just earning a certificate confirming years of study—it should also be about the connections and community you build along the way. And if you are keen to get more involved, consider joining the PGSA executive team. The association is alive and thriving and keeping it strong is something we

do together. It's a welcoming space that grows with your ideas, your enthusiasm, and your unique perspective.



Climbing the Escarpment Track; breathtaking views over Kāpiti, NZ

I never expected a few hesitant gatherings to reshape my PhD experience. But they did. And that's why I believe none of us should have to go through a PhD alone. Whether it's a chat over coffee, attending a seminar, or joining a study group, these moments of connection can spark fresh ideas, lead to exciting collaborations, and build friendships that support you both academically and personally. So, make your journey unforgettable—not just through the knowledge you gain, but through the community you build. You never know what you might learn from someone else, or what you might inspire in them..

Vladislav Ilin, School of Engineering and Computer Science, Victoria University of Wellington

Useful resources

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

Beware of predatory publishers—check the resources below first:

- The [Retraction Watch Hijacked Journal Checker](#) is a useful tool that lists suspected hijacked journals, helping researchers avoid fraudulent or misleading publication outlets
- The [ThinkCheckSubmit](#) website outlines steps to verify a publisher's credibility

Events happening soon

Looking for other events happening at the University and beyond? We go over some interesting events happening worldwide

Opportunities from other institutions

Organizer	Event	Date and Time	Register
Ako. Aotearoa	What does learning really change? Rethinking success in adult education (<i>Online</i>)	03 Sep, 12:30–13:10 NZST	Here
Australian Centre for Student Equity and success (ACSES)	Student Equity in an Era of Change 2025: The Australian Student Equity Symposium	Different date and time options	Here
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Is tertiary education meeting today's job demands? (<i>Online</i>)	02 Sep, 23:00 NZST	Here
	Insights from Education at a Glance 2025 (<i>Online</i>)	10 Sep, 01:00 NZST	Here
Statistics Solutions	Quantitative analysis (<i>Online</i>)	05 Sep, 05:00 NZST	Here
	Qualitative analysis (<i>Online</i>)	12 Sep, 05:00 NZST	Here
	A practical guide to Data Analysis (<i>Online</i>)	19 Sep, 05:00 NZST	Here
Zenspeak Public Speaking Center	Overcome your fear of public speaking (<i>Online</i>)	Different date and time options	Here
Skillsme Academy UK	How to turn your presentations from boring to brilliant (<i>Online</i>)	Different date and time options	Here
Ideas on stage UK	Say it well: A conversation with Obama speechwriter (<i>Online</i>)	24 Sep, 02:00 NZST	Here
	How to help your team present with confidence and impact (<i>Online</i>)	04, 18 Sep, 03:00 NZST	Here

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

Happening here: Events at our university

Organizer	Event	Date and Time	Register
Student Learning	Monday morning writes (<i>In person</i>)	08 Sep, 09:00–10:30 NZST	Here
	Monday morning writes (<i>In person</i>)	15 Sep, 09:00–10:30 NZST	Here
	Developing an argument in your writing (<i>In person</i>)	16 Sep, 14:10–15:00 NZST	Here
	Monday morning writes (<i>In person</i>)	22 Sep, 09:00–10:30 NZST	Here
	The art of structuring a thesis (<i>Online and In person</i>)	23 Sep, 14:10–15:00 NZST	Here
	Fine tuning your thesis (<i>In person</i>)	30 Sep, 14:10–15:00 NZST	Here

FGR

Faculty of Graduate Research
Te Here Tāura Rangahau

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

- Enrolling in your doctoral or master's programme.
- Candidature management changes. Online forms for thesis candidature changes can be found [here](#).

Thesis Examinations: FGR-Exams@vuw.ac.nz

- Submission or examination of theses.

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

- Doctoral applications or the doctoral application process
- Scholarships

Learning and Development: william.eulatthvidal@vuw.ac.nz