

Integrating Candidature

Wellbeing

- Accelerating Completion



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

Dr. Jeanette Fyfe

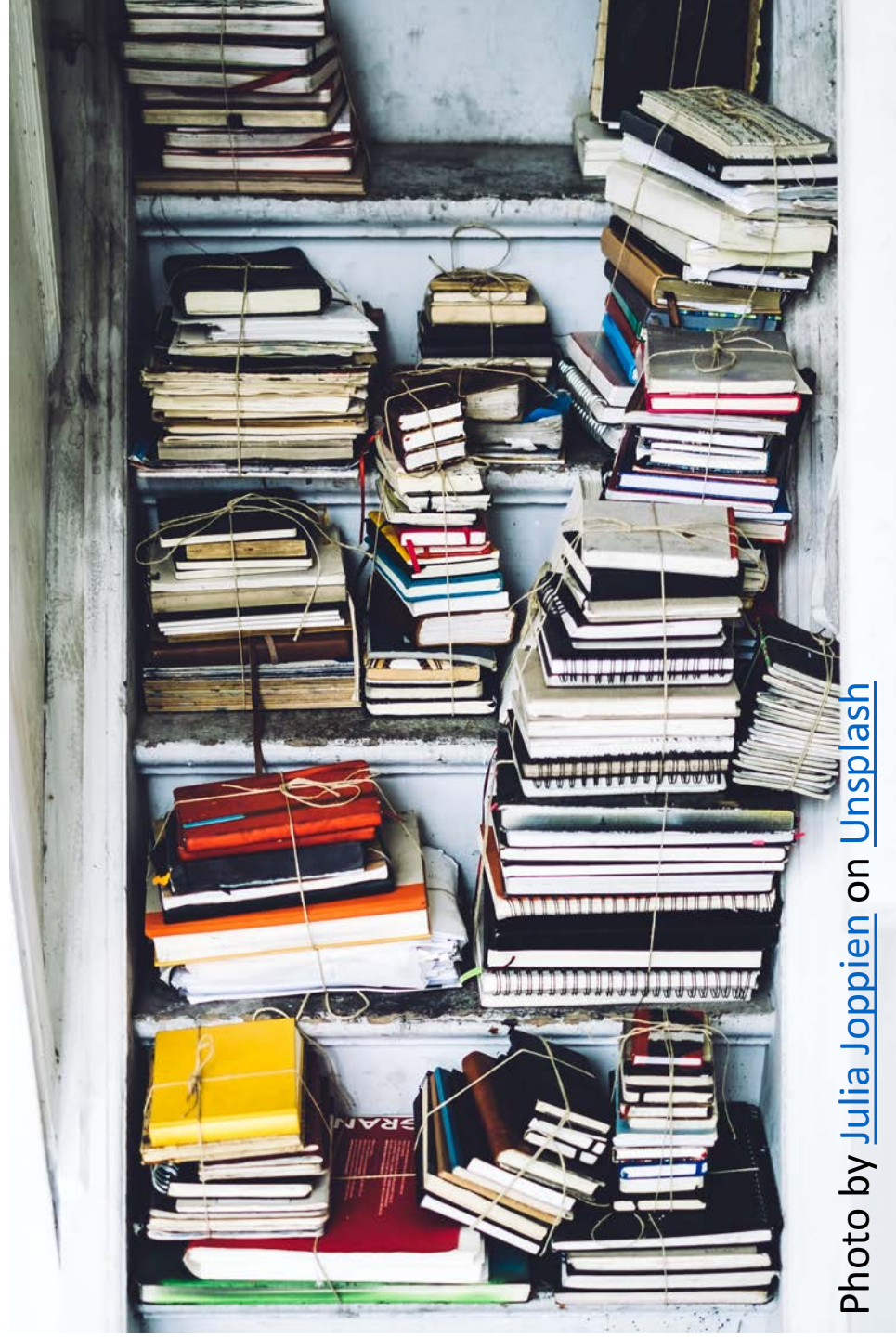
Accelerated Completions Program

- Eight week program for late stage candidates
- 3 plenary workshops, Planning, Check-in, Next steps
- Weekly one-on-one accountability coaching



Program features

- Self-selecting cohort
- Dedicated space to discuss imposter feelings, self-sabotaging, completion anxieties
- Develop skills in planning and completing tasks
- Set an individual plan for the program and ends with the development of a plan for thesis completion



Results so far

- **101 candidates have completed the program since 2016 (with 18 enrolled in current program)**
- **~30 have completed (70% of first cohort, 50% of second cohort)**
- **5 candidates have withdrawn (well)**

Background

- **Synthesis of other relevant university plans – Teaching, Research, Orientation and Transition, Wellbeing, Employability**
- **Data driven - PREQ and Graduate Research Experience and Engagement Survey**
- **Widely consulted – students, supervisors, graduate research coordinators, senior leaders, stakeholders and support units**



Graduate Research Experience and Wellbeing

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2019 – 2022
GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL

Principles

- Enhancing supervision
- Belonging
- Whole person
- Employability
- Clear expectations to support success
- Transparent and efficient enablers

A new plan for our diverse graduate research community

Our graduate research candidates have diverse backgrounds. All have experienced university before but may be new to research.

They may have significant life experience and join us with different expectations; they often juggle significant caring and financial responsibilities.

Graduate researchers have distinctive and complex roles and relationships in the University, which means we must be nuanced in the way we facilitate their experience – we must apply broader strategies that take account of the unique identity, role and curriculum they inhabit and experience.

Graduate researchers sit within the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Industry Engagement) portfolio, and the Graduate Researcher Experience and Wellbeing Implementation Plan therefore finds its home in the Research Plan. However, the dual identity of graduate researchers as both researchers and students means that any implementation plan aimed at improving their experience and wellbeing must align with and build upon University research strategy, as well as concomitant strategies for student success, library services, student wellbeing and teaching and learning.

Goals	Target
Outstanding graduate research experience: deliver a consistently high quality experience for all graduate researchers.	Top 12 in Australia and top in Victoria as measured by the Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire (PREQ) Overall Satisfaction.
Graduate researcher employability: continue to improve graduate researcher employability outcomes.	Top 12 in Australia and top in Victoria for graduate researchers as measured by the Graduate Outcomes Survey.

Since the establishment of the Graduate Research School (GRS) in 2015, the policy framework supporting graduate research at La Trobe has been reviewed, revised and updated. In concert with the renewed policy settings, significant enhancements have been made to the systems underpinning graduate research student candidature, examination and progress management.

The launch of the HDR Data Integration stream of the PRIME project, which feeds information from the Student Information System into the University's HR systems, has further established the value and position of graduate researchers in the University's academic community.

The GRS has also accelerated partnerships with international institutions and significantly increased the number of opportunities for our candidates to engage with industry and the broader community through a program of internships, mentoring and the La Trobe Industry PhD. The Research Education and Development (RED) Team has strengthened and expanded its program of online and workshop-based researcher development activities available across the campus network.


Working with colleges and schools, the GRS has also developed a new University operating model for graduate research by establishing clear expectations of Directors of Graduate Research, Graduate Research Coordinators, Regional Liaison Coordinators and Progress Committee Chairs.

The Graduate Research Experience and Wellbeing Implementation Plan builds on all of this foundational work to fulfil the University's objectives in relation to graduate research:

- a culture of research excellence
- outstanding research experience
- excellent candidate outcomes
- fruitful external engagement and partnerships

Actions

- **KPIs for the GRS**
- **KPIs for each School**
- **Candidates wanted their own set of KPIs**



Graduate researchers are a distinctive and valued group in the University community. Located at the intersection of the teaching and research agenda, they are research colleagues as well as students. They are often engaged in teaching as University staff and other part-time roles both within and outside academia. They are an essential part of the institutional research workforce and produce a significant amount of our overall research output, all the while being researchers in formation who have enrolled in a research training degree under supervision.



Any Questions?



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY