



Student Learning Development

Higher Education Development Centre

Postgraduate Workshop Programme 2023

Student Learning Development (SLD) workshops are great for finding out what is expected of you at all levels of university study. Our workshops are interactive, informal sessions which will help you discover new techniques and skills to support your study.

To register for our workshops, go online to:

otago.ac.nz/hedc/students/workshop

For any questions about our workshops, please contact SLD Reception at hedc.studentlearning@otago.ac.nz

Phone 03 479 8801



Higher Education Development Centre

Student Learning Development

Whaowhia Te Kete Mātauraka

Strategies for Successful Learning

Writing at University

This workshop focuses on structural and stylistic elements which apply to a range of writing tasks. The hallmarks of a good introduction and conclusion will also be highlighted, and examples will be provided.

Thursday 16th March	10am to 10:50am	HEDC Seminar Room
Tuesday 21st March	1pm to 1:50pm	Zoom
Tuesday 18th July	2pm to 2:50pm	HEDC Seminar Room
Thursday 10th August	9am to 9:50am	Zoom

Writing Better Sentences and Paragraphs

This workshop focuses on some aspects of sentence and paragraph structure, key grammar points, common writing errors, and proofreading techniques. We also work on practical exercises which allow you to reflect on ways to improve your writing.

Tuesday 14th March	2pm to 2:50pm	HEDC Seminar Room
Monday 27th March	2pm to 2:50pm	HEDC Seminar Room
Tuesday 25th July	4pm to 4:50pm	HEDC Seminar Room

Avoiding plagiarism for Postgraduates

In this workshop, you will learn strategies for paraphrasing and summarising, and how these skills can help you avoid plagiarism and become a more effective writer. You will have the opportunity to practice paraphrasing and summarising during the workshop. This workshop is for postgraduate students who want to enhance their skills of working with research literature. You are welcome to use your own literature for the practice exercises.

Thursday 30th March	11am to 12:30pm	Zoom
Thursday 10th August	10am to 11:30am	Zoom
Thursday 12th October	10am to 11:30am	Zoom

Reading for Understanding

This workshop offers strategies to read university material effectively, efficiently, and for understanding. Some pointers are also given on how to critique reading material.

Thursday 9th March	9am to 9:50am	HEDC Seminar Room
Tuesday 23rd March	10am to 10:50am	Zoom
Tuesday 4th April	2pm to 2:50pm	HEDC Seminar Room
Tuesday 27th April	10am to 10:50am	Zoom
Thursday 20th July	9am to 9:50am	HEDC Seminar Room
Tuesday 1st August	1pm to 1:50pm	Zoom



Learn More with a Growth Mindset

If I don't understand something right away, does it mean that I'm not smart? Are challenge and effort good or bad? Do I believe in the power of "not yet"?

During our workshop, we will explore some of these questions through the lens of the fascinating findings from the research on "mindsets". We will explore what it means to have a "Growth Mindset" versus a "Fixed Mindset," and we will consider how the findings relate to learning and achievement. Most importantly, we will investigate how to apply some of the insights from the research and our thinking to our own approaches to learning.

Friday 10th March	10am to 10:50am	HEDC Seminar Room
Friday 10th March	10am to 10:50am	Zoom

Presentation Skills

This workshop is designed for students who are new to giving presentations and those who want to develop their confidence. We will discuss the key elements of a good presenter and learn to create effective presentation materials, such as PowerPoint slides. On completion of this workshop, students will be able to:

1. Plan a presentation
2. Use effective verbal and non-verbal techniques when making a presentation
3. Reduce their stress when presenting
4. Apply basic design principles to creating effective presentation slides

Monday 23rd January	10am to 11:30am	HEDC Seminar Room
Monday 1st May	10am to 11:30am	HEDC Seminar Room
Wednesday 3rd May	1pm to 2:30pm	Zoom
Monday 7th August	10am to 11:30am	Zoom

Jumpstart your stats skills 0

This series of workshops aims to provide a conceptual introduction to statistics to help students engage with the literature more deeply and thoroughly and facilitate learning with understanding. Please note that the facilitator's background is in psychology; therefore, most examples will be from psychology or similar disciplines.

The first workshop of the series will cover the following topics: What is a variable; Level of measurement; measurement error, reliability, and validity; Null vs alternative hypothesis; Normal distribution; Central tendency; Standard deviation.

Wednesday 22nd March	9am to 10:50am	Zoom
Wednesday 19th July	9am to 10:50am	Zoom



Jumpstart your stats skills 1

This series of workshops aims to provide a conceptual introduction to statistics to help students engage with the literature more deeply and thoroughly and facilitate learning with understanding. Please note that the facilitator's background is in psychology; therefore, most examples will be from psychology or similar disciplines. Contents: This workshop of the series will cover the following topics: - standard error, and confidence intervals; - p-value - two-tailed vs one-tailed test. - type 1 and type 2 errors.

Thursday 23rd March	9am to 10:50am	Zoom
---------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------

Thursday 10th July	9am to 10:50am	Zoom
--------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------

Jumpstart your stats skills 2

This series of workshops aims to provide a conceptual introduction to statistics to help students engage with the literature more deeply and thoroughly and facilitate learning with understanding. Please note that the facilitator's background is in psychology; therefore, most examples will be from psychology or similar disciplines. Also, please note that this is a conceptual introduction, not a workshop on using a particular software to run correlation and regression.

Tuesday 28th March	9am to 10:50am	Zoom
--------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------

Tuesday 25th July	9am to 10:50am	Zoom
-------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------

Jumpstart your stats skills 3

This series of workshops aims to provide a conceptual introduction to statistics to help students engage with the literature more deeply and thoroughly and facilitate learning with understanding.

Please note that the facilitator's background is in psychology; therefore, most examples will be from psychology or similar disciplines. Also, please note that this is a conceptual introduction, not a workshop on using a particular software to run t-test.

Contents: This workshop covers the following topics: Introduction to experimental research method (between group vs within group design); Independent vs dependent variable; Systematic and unsystematic variance; t-statistic; type 1 and type 2 errors; F-ratio in analysis of variance; Determining significance of F test; Contrasts and post-hoc tests; Analysis of co-variance.

It is expected that you will have attended Jumpstart your stats skills 1, or be familiar with variance, SD, normal distribution.

Wednesday 29th March	9am to 10:50am	Zoom
--	-----------------------	-------------

Wednesday 26th July	9am to 10:50am	Zoom
---------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------



Higher Education Development Centre

Student Learning Development

Whaowhia Te Kete Mātauraka

Learning technology consult – Q&A related to learning technologies

This consultation session gives you the opportunity to ask questions related to learning technologies (e.g. Blackboard, Moodle, Echo360, student emails, Microsoft package, reference tools) that you encounter during your study. The session is driven by your questions – the facilitator aims to help you solve technical issues so that you can focus on your study. Prior to attending the session, please describe the technical issues you'd like to discuss in the online form below. The form is anonymous.

Link to the form: <https://forms.office.com/r/HCpfUBhNiw>

Tuesday 28th February	1pm to 1:50pm	Zoom (limited to 10)
Tuesday 7th March	1pm to 1:50pm	Zoom (limited to 10)
Tuesday 14th March	1pm to 1:50pm	Zoom (limited to 10)
Monday 10th July	1pm to 1:50pm	Zoom (limited to 10)
Tuesday 18th July	1pm to 1:50pm	Zoom (limited to 10)
Tuesday 25th July	1pm to 1:50pm	Zoom (limited to 10)

Time Management

In this workshop, we will cover the general principles of good time management and how to be more efficient with the time you have available using evidence-based techniques that work.

Thursday 9th March	10am to 10:50am	Zoom
--------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------



Higher Education Development Centre

Student Learning Development

Whaowhia Te Kete Mātauraka

Thesis Writing Clinics

Critical Thinking in the Thesis Writing Process

This 2h workshop is designed for Masters and PhD students in any discipline who wish to improve the quality of their academic work. It will address some specific areas in thesis writing and postgraduate research where critical thinking is required. In the workshop we will examine the application of critical thinking in different disciplines and look at a range of topics including gap statements and research questions, the literature review and claims about contributing to knowledge.

Thursday 19th January	10am to 11:50am	HEDC Seminar Room
Thursday 15th June	10am to 12pm	HEDC Seminar Room
Thursday 22nd June	10am to 12pm	Zoom

Stages of Writing

If you want to improve your writing efficiency, being aware of the various stages of writing can help. Have you ever spent hours polishing your prose just to have to dump these sections later when you realise they are not relevant? In addition, it can be very useful for both of you and your supervisor to be aware of what stage of writing you are at when requesting feedback.

By the end of this workshop you will have:

- a) been introduced to four stages of writing – prewriting, drafting, revisions and editing and what each stage involves
- b) discussed why it is important to recognise which stage you are at with your writing and the purpose of each stage
- c) recognised how writing in stages can increase your writing efficiency by giving you ‘permission’ to move on

Thursday 19th January	11am to 11:50am	GW3 – Student Learning Development
Tuesday 28th March	2pm to 2:50am	HEDC Seminar Room
Tuesday 30th March	1pm to 2:30pm	Zoom



Higher Education Development Centre

Student Learning Development

Whaowhia Te Kete Mātauraka

Writing a Literature Review

Your literature review has several purposes. It explains what has already been published on your research topic, identifies key debates and/or gaps in the existing literature, and demonstrates why *your* work is important. Rather than being a list of who said what, your literature review should offer a critical analysis of others' research. This allows you to justify your research and to show how it contributes something new.

By the end of this thesis writing clinic, you will:

1. Be able to identify what is meant by 'the literature' in your field(s) of study
2. Understand the purposes of a literature review
3. Be familiar with a range of approaches to reviewing the literature
4. Have strategies for planning and writing your literature review.

Monday 13th March	10am to 11:30am	HEDC Seminar Room
-------------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

Thursday 16th March	10am to 11:30am	Zoom
---------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------

Monday 8th May	10am to 11:30am	HEDC Seminar Room
----------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

Thursday 11th May	1pm to 2:30pm	Zoom
-------------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

Monday 9th October	10am to 11:30am	HEDC Seminar Room
--------------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

Thursday 12th October	10am to 11:30am	Zoom
---	------------------------	-------------

Developing Good Writing Skills

The aim of this workshop is to provide participants with a range of writing tools and suggestions to issues that often impede timely completion. We will first discuss common issues that can lead to 'writer's block' and similar phenomena and suggest ways of overcoming these. We will present strategies to write more confidently, stylishly, engagingly, and more prolifically. Topics include: Being an independent and resourceful writer, reading like a writer, writing critically, arguments in academic writing, academic writing tool kit, academic phrase bank, shut-up and write and 5 am club. Doctoral students who have completed their journeys will share their writing strategies.

Wednesday 8th February	11am to 12:50pm	HEDC Seminar Room
--	------------------------	--------------------------

Monday 3rd July	11am to 12:50pm	HEDC Seminar Room
-----------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

Monday 18th September	11am to 12:50pm	Zoom
---	------------------------	-------------



Higher Education Development Centre

Student Learning Development

Whaowhia Te Kete Mātauraka

Academic Skills for Postgraduates

Preparing for the Doctoral Examination

In this seminar, you will learn how to prepare for and present research in your oral examination, how to respond to examiners' questions, and how to revise after the examination.

Students who have completed the oral examination at Otago will share their experiences and provide useful tips.

By the end of the session, participants will:

- Understand the purpose of the oral examination at Otago
- Understand what happens before, during and after the examination
- Understand what examiners look for
- Know how to plan and prepare for the examination

Monday 13th February	11am to 12:50pm	HEDC Seminar Room
Monday 17th April	10am to 12pm	Zoom
Wednesday 7th June	10am to 12pm	HEDC Seminar Room
Monday 16th October	10am to 12pm	HEDC Seminar Room

How best to record information during literature review

Assuming you know the process of doing literature review and can use databases and reference managers (e.g. Endnote, Zotero, Mendeley), this workshop takes a more nuanced approach to exploring the digital tools (e.g. Lists, Miro, NVivo) that you can use to record, revisit and make sense of key information from the research literature. By the end of the workshop, you will identify a suite of digital tools that could enhance your productivity during literature review.

Wednesday 22nd March	1pm to 2:30pm	Zoom
Wednesday 2nd August	1pm to 2:30pm	Zoom



Presenting Research at Conferences

Academic conferences provide an ideal opportunity to keep abreast of developments in the field, to share research within an academic community and to network. In this seminar, we will discuss different types of conference presentations. We will look at the criteria for selecting conferences and writing abstracts for conferences. The focus of this seminar will be on extemporaneous academic presentation skills. These include preparing your academic speech, audience engagement, preparing your visuals, answering questions and dealing with difficult questions.

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Select an appropriate conference
- Understand why it is important to attend academic conferences
- Become familiar with skills necessary to answer questions
- Develop networking skills
- Gain insights into making extemporaneous presentations

Monday 8th May	1pm to 3pm	HEDC Seminar Room
Monday 25th September	10am to 11:50pm	Zoom

Writing Your First Journal Article

The 2h workshop is designed for PhD and Masters students considering publishing their work. It will develop ideas for best practice and provide research-based practical advice in three areas that are known to be important when learning how to write in this genre. These are: 1) writing for journals 2) academic writing strategies and 3) improving the quality of writing.

In writing for journals, the key topics are structure and alignment, and the peer review process. In writing strategies, we will examine writing techniques and time management, the link between writing, analysis and thinking, and the emotional side of writing. In improving writing quality, the workshop will deal with written English and using feedback. The workshop will conclude with a discussion about peer assisted writing.

Wednesday 14th June	10am to 12pm	HEDC Seminar Room
---------------------------------------	---------------------	--------------------------



Higher Education Development Centre

Student Learning Development

Whaowhia Te Kete Mātauraka

The HEDC seminar room is located at
65/75 Union Place West
Dunedin 9016
Phone: +64 3 479 8492
Email: hedc@otago.ac.nz



Higher Education Development Centre
Student Learning Development
Whaowhia Te Kete Mātauraka