



8.30 Registration and house keeping

9.00 Welcome

Professor Harlene Hayne | Vice Chancellor | Curtin University

9.45 Thesis Quest *Not Recorded

Thesis Quest is a relaxed, interactive way to connect with other HDR students at Thesis Fest. Using a simple clue sheet, you'll set off to find others who can share small but meaningful insights, whether it's a moment they nearly gave up, a habit that's helped them keep going, or a practical tip on navigating milestones. It's an easy, engaging way to make early connections at Thesis Fest (and even a few friends), making networking feel more natural.

10.30 Celebration morning tea and networking

11.00 Generative AI in HDR: guidelines, practice and maintaining your academic voice

Panel facilitated by Professor Richard Norman | Dean, Graduate Studies | Graduate Research School

Generative AI offers new opportunities for HDR students but also raises important questions about appropriate use and research integrity. This session brings together the Graduate Research School and experienced supervisors to explore what responsible use looks like in practice.

12.30 Catered networking lunch

1.30 Turbocharge your writing

Hugh Kearns | Flinders University | iThinkWell

Would you like to know the secret to high output, low stress scholarly writing? Research shows there are practical strategies that can significantly improve writing productivity. This workshop will explore why it's so hard to get started, how we unknowingly use distractions to delay writing, and how to apply simple techniques to set a writing plan and stick to it, helping you produce more words, clarify your thinking, and improve the quality of your work.

2.30 Afternoon tea and networking

3.00 How I finished my thesis (and survived) *Not Recorded

Recent HDR graduates | Curtin University

Engage in a panel of recently completed HDR students as they discuss motivation, staying on track and how to stay well during your research. Bring your questions and be part of an open conversation shaped by real experiences.

4.30 Reflection and close

 **The Lantern
(105.701)
Curtin Perth**

 **Online via
[WebEx](#)**



8.30 Registration and house keeping

9.00 The road to success is never a straight line

Professor James Arvanitakis | Director | Forrest Research Foundation

Your PhD journey will come with challenges but it can also be incredibly fulfilling. In this session you'll be invited to pause and reflect on how to make the experience meaningful for you. We'll explore the value of learning through mistakes and setbacks, unpack the daily emotional realities of research, and share practical tips to support you along the way, including how to navigate those feelings of being an imposter that can appear at any stage of your career.

10.30 Celebration morning tea and networking

11.00 Connected research: building relationships that fuel your degree

Dr Narelle Lemon | Creative Director | Dr Narelle Lemon Practice

Research can feel isolating, but it doesn't have to be. The relationships you build along the way profoundly influence both your wellbeing and your academic success. This interactive workshop will help you develop practical strategies for building rapport with supervisors, collaborating effectively with peers, and creating supportive networks that sustain you, whether you're on campus or working remotely.

12.30 Catered networking lunch

1.30 Research Career Success: on your own terms

Dr Jason Downs | On The Reg Team

Over 50% of PhDs build careers outside academia. This session explores why, and how you can too. Discover how to access the 'hidden' job market, where many roles are never advertised, and learn how to tap into this opportunity. You'll also gain practical strategies to effectively translate and showcase your research skills to engage non-academic employers.

2.30 Afternoon tea and networking

3.00 What to do when you have too much to do

Dr Vikki Wright | The PhD Life Coach

We all feel like we have too much to do, and to be honest for most people that's probably an objective fact. Yet we spend a lot of time getting very stressed about having too much to do, struggling to prioritise and then often not getting on with the things we need to do. In this interactive workshop, you will learn how to get the "right" things done, and for you to feel comfortable deciding what those things are.

4.30 Reflection and close

Kylie Percival | University Librarian, Curtin Library

THESES
2026

Library Thesis Fest

Sustainability Event Statement

Thesis Fest contributes to Curtin University's support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns through the following actions to conserve resources and reduce waste:

Venue

The newly refurbished Library holds a 5-Star Green Star Design & As Built sustainability rating, incorporating eco-friendly features such as water-efficient taps, energy-efficient light bulbs, and motion sensor lighting. The venue is accessible via public transport and provides bicycle parking.

Food and beverages

Thesis Fest has selected food and beverages from local small businesses and catered to minimise food wastage. Filtered tap water is available for all attendees.

Waste management

Thesis Fest encourages attendees to bring their own water bottles and keep cups to minimise the use of single use products. Where possible cutlery, crockery and cups will be made of compostable materials. Recycle, compost and general waste bins are provided throughout the venue.

Event promotion

Reduce promotional materials and reuse resources such as name badges. Digital channels are utilised for promotion and registrations wherever possible. Where necessary print content is double-sided on recycled and sustainably sourced paper.