

STATS CENTRAL

*The UNSW Statistical Consulting and Collaboration Unit
Part of the Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre*

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Welcome to the third newsletter for Stats Central—the UNSW Statistical Consulting and Collaboration Unit, established last year. Below you will find details on what trouble we've been getting up to of late, recent news, and what's coming up next. In particular note our list of short courses for 2017, and our new monthly seminar series.



*David Warton and Nancy Briggs
Stats Central leadership*

Upcoming events

2017 Short courses:

Introduction to R (June 13)

Introductory Statistics for Researchers (June 14-15, again in November)

Introduction to regression modelling in R (June 19-21)

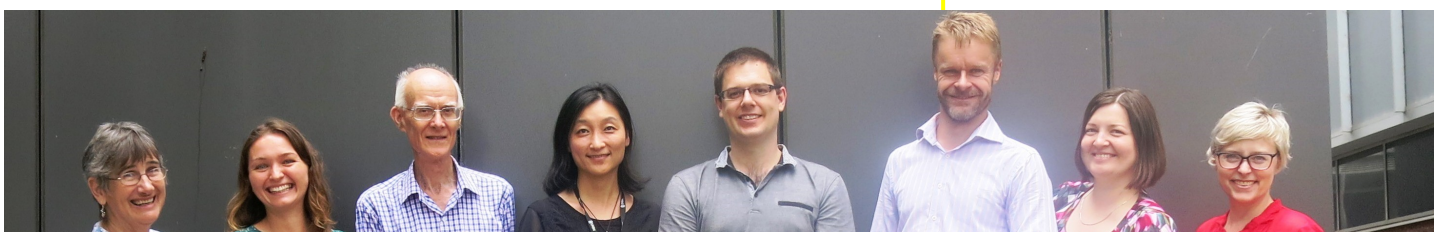
Statistics for epidemiology (November)

Book a consultation

Questions or comments?

Email us at

Stats.Central@unsw.edu.au





Short course calendar for 2017

We've planned our [short courses for 2017](#), all taught by our experienced Stats Central consultants in association with the School of Mathematics and Statistics.

Introduction to R—June 13

For researchers who want to get started using this powerful, free stats package, now more popular in academia than SAS!

Introductory Statistics for Researchers - June 14-15

A two-day refresher in introductory statistics

Introduction to regression modelling in R—June 19-21

Builds on introductory stats knowledge to introduce the linear model and important extensions in a single framework

Statistics for epidemiology—November

Stats for observational studies, with a focus on logistic regression, survival analysis and meta-analysis

Introductory Statistics for Researchers - November

A repeat of our most popular course

This follows from our recent short courses

Experimental Design short course (April)

Intermediate Statistics for Ecologists (February)

All courses are heavily subsidised for UNSW students (\$100/day) and staff (\$200/day), compared to the market rate of \$500/day.

[Registration is now open for June short courses.](#)

Stats Central seminar series

Stats Central is starting a monthly seminar series intended for all UNSW researchers, on topical statistical issues for researchers. Followed by afternoon tea.

Or first seminar will be by Stats Central consultant Brigid Betz-Stablein on "Three statistical ideas all researchers should know".

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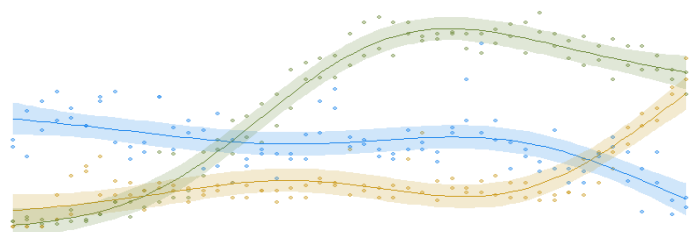
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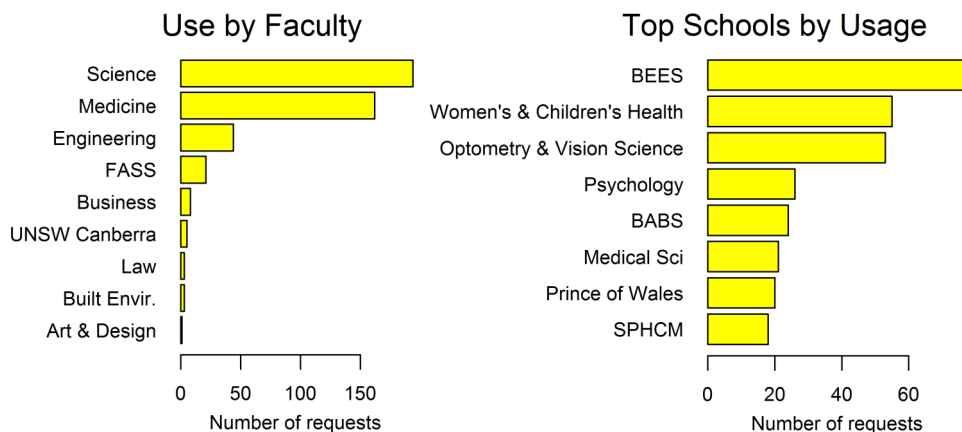
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Recent activities

Below are the main activities over the last 12 months.

Consulting: We offer free design and analysis advice to UNSW HDR students and free design advice to staff, and can be contracted to work on larger projects.



Since May 2016 we have assisted 437 UNSW research projects across 51 schools/units in *each of UNSW's nine Faculties*.

The highest-usage schools are our partner schools, who contract an in-house statistical consultant part-time to provide dedicated expertise. Partner schools account for about half of all Stats Central requests, and provide about half of our funding. This emphasises that becoming a partner is a mechanism to maximise benefit from Stats Central.

Short courses and seminars: We offer short courses at heavily discounted rates for UNSW researchers, also the occasional free seminar or guest lecture (20 to date, mostly in partner schools). In the last year we have delivered six short courses to over 120 attendees from over 25 Schools.

Grant review: we offer free statistical review of any grant application to an external funding agency. In total, 44 grants, submitted from 17 schools and centres, have been reviewed so far in 2017.

Prof Sue Wilson joins ethics board

One of our Senior Statisticians, Prof Sue Wilson, has recently joined the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). Expert opinion from statisticians on the scientific validity and feasibility of research proposals is essential in assessing ethics applications, and Sue will have a key role as the stats expert on the committee in maintaining design and analysis standards in medical research regionally.

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Current partners and projects

Funding for Stats Central comes from the Research Division, with support from the School of Mathematics and Statistics, and a growing suite of Partner Schools.

Schools and units can partner with Stats Central, buying out a portion of a consultant's time to dedicate to the partner. The consultant can be physically based in the partner school or unit for that time to increase access, facilitate specialisation and deeper collaborations. Basically, to enable best-practice consultancy and to tailor what we offer based on the partner's needs—consulting, teaching assistance, workshops, ...

Stats Central uses funding from partners to grow our unit in response to demand, so there is broader institutional benefit to partnering with Stats Central. We recently appointed a new consultant in late 2016 using funding from new partner arrangements established over our first year of operation.

Our current list of partners:

- Graduate Research School
- Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre
- Prince of Wales Clinical School
- School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences
- School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences
- School of Optometry and Vision Sciences
- School of Mathematics and Statistics
- School of Public Health and Community Medicine
- School of Women's and Children's Health
- St Vincent's Clinical School

We also collaborate with research groups on projects requiring specialised expertise, under similar funding arrangements, and have had considerable recent growth in this area this year. Current projects:

- Working Conditions of International Student-Workers (Law)
- Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program
- Maintain Your Brain (Dementia Collaborative Research Centre and Centre for Healthy Brain Aging)
- Risk and protective factors associated with cognitive decline and dementia (Centre for Healthy Brain Aging)
- Recidivism rates in Australian States (Criminology)
- Health and criminal outcomes for individuals recommended for court diversion for mental health issues (Psychiatry)
- Enchanting Self-Disclosure if Equity Group Membership (Student Life and Learning Centre)
- Associations between death and Primary Care data (SPHCM)

Consider writing Stats Central funding into your grant applications and joining this list!

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