

STATS CENTRAL

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

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Welcome to the Spring newsletter for Stats Central—the UNSW Statistical Consulting and Collaboration Unit, established early last year. Below you will find recent news, and what's coming up next. In particular note and we are taking requests for 2018 short courses, and have been nominated in the upcoming President's Awards!



*David Warton and Nancy Briggs
Stats Central leadership*

Stats Central nominated for President's Award

We are thrilled to announce that Stats Central has been nominated for the 2017 President's Award for Collaboration. The citation reads "Stats Central has been instrumental in providing experimental design advice, training, assistance on reviewer comments and grant proposals. This has promoted my research skills and improved research outcomes... my collaborators on diverse projects spanning medical to environmental, have hugely benefited from their assistance". Stats was a bit of a theme in nominations, with the team behind the new Data Science program also nominated in this category.

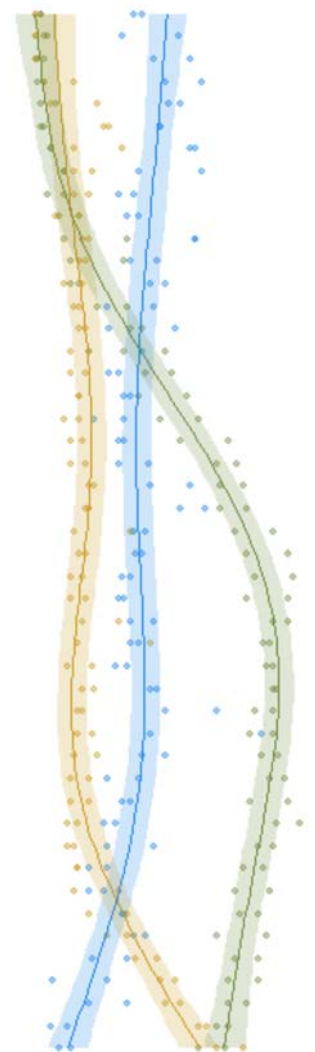
Anyone can vote for the People's Choice Award but the deadline is this Friday—if you want to have your say go to <https://staff.2025.unsw.edu.au/enabling/people-and-culture/staff-awards-nominations/>

[Book a consultation](#)

Questions or comments?

Email us at

Stats.Central@unsw.edu.au



Welcome Eve and Mark!

We have two new consultants—Eve Slavich and Mark Donoghoe. Eve has already started with us, and will be the main contact for BEES researchers, having been affiliated with BEES (as well as the School of Mathematics and Statistics) during her postgraduate degree at UNSW. Mark will start in January and comes with ten years of experience as a biostatistician in the medical sciences, especially clinical trials. We are excited to see how things develop for both Eve and Mark!

Recent activities

Below are the main activities so far this year.

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.

So far in 2017, we have assisted 398 UNSW research projects across 40 schools/units in eight UNSW 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. Becoming a partner is a mechanism to maximise benefit from Stats Central, and enables specialisation of a consultant to your research area.

Short courses and seminars: In 2017 we delivered eight short courses at heavily discounted rates to over 150 attendees from seven Faculties, we organised a monthly seminar series, and gave over a dozen occasional seminars or guest lectures.

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, were reviewed in 2017.

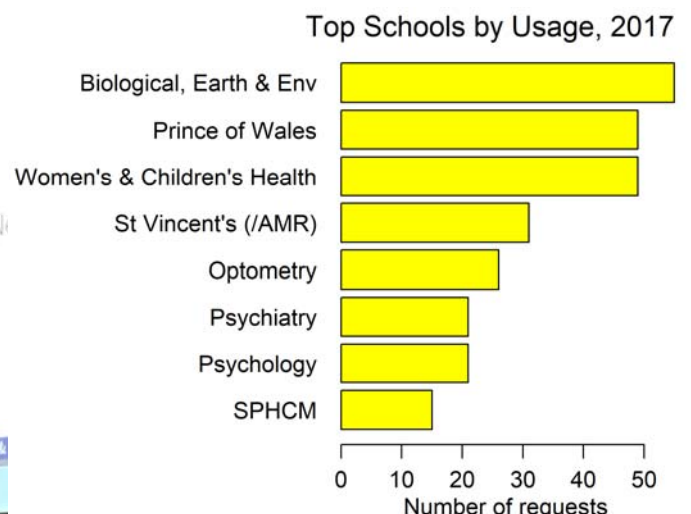
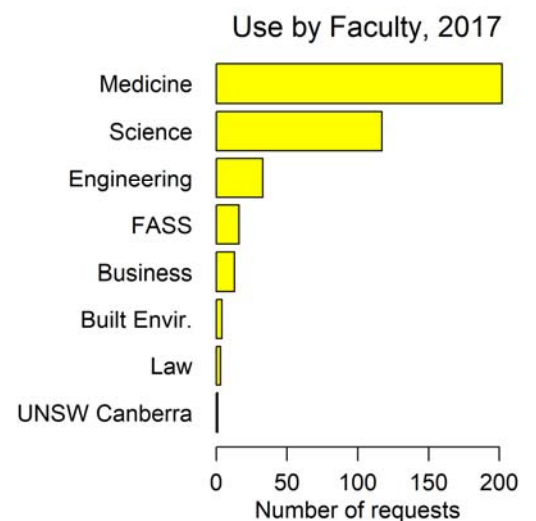


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Short course planning for 2018

We are currently working out our short course schedule for 2018. It will include popular courses like Intro Stats and Intro to Regression on R, but if you have other suggestions, do let us know.

Congrats to Sue, inaugural ABACBS Awardee!

Prof Sue Wilson, Senior Statistical Consultant at Stats Central, was just presented with the inaugural Australian Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Society (ABACBS) Honorary Senior Fellow Award. This award was in recognition of “sustained excellence in bioinformatics based on contributions to the field in research, contributions to the research community, and leadership”. A big congrats to Sue!

Current partners and projects

Stats Central is funded by the Research Division, with support from the School of Mathematics and Statistics, and a 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, grants advice, support for Honours or ILP students...

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. One of our new consultants appointed in the recent recruitment round was funded from a new partner arrangement that will start in 2018.

Our current list of partners:

- Graduate Research School
- 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 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. Current projects:

- Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (Student Life and Learning Centre)
- Maintain Your Brain (Dementia Collaborative Research Centre and Centre for Healthy Brain Aging)
- Outcomes for individuals recommended for court diversion for mental health issues (Psychiatry)
- Self-Reported Emotions (Psychology)
- Emotions and Facial Expression in Children (Psychology)
- Antibiotic Resistance in Three Networked Metropolitan Hospitals following Antimicrobial Stewardship Implementation 2008-2016 (St. George)

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

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