

Supervisory Expectations Grid

Establishing expectations with co-supervisors and supervisees early in the doctoral process helps define boundaries, prevents misunderstandings, and builds trust.

The grid below is designed to facilitate reflection and discussion of supervisory expectations regarding roles and responsibilities. It can be used by individual supervisors, supervisory teams, and supervisees.

How to use the grid:

Both the supervisor and the doctoral researcher should fill out the form independently.

Mark the circle on the line that best represents your opinion between the two statements.

Key

- 1 Supervisor's responsibility
- 2 Mainly the supervisor's responsibility
- 3 Equal responsibility
- 4 Mainly the doctoral researcher's responsibility
- 5 Doctoral researcher's responsibility

Doctoral researcher's name: Supervisor/s names: Department/School:
Date:

Theme	Supervisor	Responsibility and notes					Doctoral researcher
Defining a research topic	It is the supervisor's responsibility to define the research topic, question or hypothesis.	1	2	3	4	5	It is the doctoral researcher's responsibility to define the research topic, question or hypothesis.
Theoretical framework, methodology and/or methods	The supervisor should decide the theoretical framework, methodology and/or methods.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher should decide the theoretical framework, methodology and/or methods.
Research processes, resources and facilities	The supervisor should ensure the doctoral researcher is familiar with the processes, resources, people and facilities they may need to start their research.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher should ensure they are familiar with the processes, resources, people and facilities they may need to start their research.
Research review and milestones	The supervisor should ensure the doctoral researcher is aware of relevant policies, project milestones and progress review requirements.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher should ensure they are aware of relevant policies, project milestones and progress review requirements.

Project plan	The supervisor should provide a project plan and schedule.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher should produce a project plan and schedule.
Research process	The supervisor should explain and direct the research process.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher should work independently, taking ownership of the research process.
Supervisory meetings	The supervisor should arrange regular supervisory meetings with the doctoral researcher.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher should arrange regular supervisory meetings with the supervisor.
Monitor progress	The supervisor should check regularly that the doctoral researcher is maintaining progress and adhering to the schedule.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher should work independently and be responsible for monitoring their own progress.
Supervisory team communications	The supervisor should coordinate communication across the supervisory team.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher should coordinate communication across the supervisory team.

Pastoral care and wellbeing	The supervisor should provide pastoral care, including emotional support and encouragement.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher is responsible for establishing and drawing on sources of pastoral and wellbeing support.
	The supervisor should ensure the doctoral researcher is aware of sources of pastoral and wellbeing support.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher is responsible for identifying sources of pastoral and wellbeing support.
Training and development	The supervisor is responsible for ensuring the doctoral researcher is aware of training and developmental opportunities.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher is responsible for identifying training and developmental opportunities.
Flexibility	The supervisor should have the flexibility to meet the needs of the doctoral researcher.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher should adapt to meet the supervisor's requirements.

Research community	The supervisor should ensure the doctoral researcher engages with the research community, both within and beyond the university.	1	2	3	4	5	The doctoral researcher is responsible for identifying opportunities to engage with the research community, both within and beyond the university.
<p>Further roles and responsibilities</p>							