

# Case study 1

"I'm in my second year and drafting for confirmation. My supervisor is experienced and very thorough, but every time I send work it comes back heavily marked up with a clear list of changes, so I've stopped proposing ideas because they usually get corrected anyway. Whether the feedback is about the argument, structure, or phrasing, I'm now less sure how to judge whether my work is strong for myself. I'm also becoming less willing to share anything until it looks polished enough."

- Alex

## Discussion prompts:

1. What is the doctoral candidate gaining or losing from their supervisor?
2. What does the supervision look like from the outside?
3. What would a shift towards greater independence look like here?

## Case study 2

"I'm neurodivergent, and one of the hardest parts of the PhD is how vague and unstructured it can feel. My supervisor says they want me to be more independent, but when I suggest something exploratory in a team meeting or supervision, it can feel as though it is dismissed for not being thought through. If I hold back until it feels more worked through, I'm told I should have shared it earlier. I'm starting to feel that "be more independent" really means "work out the rules on your own", and I'm no longer sure what I'm expected to bring to supervision, what I should try to solve alone, or when it's appropriate to speak up."

- Maya

### Discussion prompts:

1. What is the doctoral candidate gaining or losing from their supervisor?
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