

Expectations in supervision questionnaire

Purpose

Many of the challenges faced in a supervisory relationship are due to differing expectations. The purpose of this questionnaire is to stimulate discussion about differences in expectations of supervision. You may wish to look for patterns (e.g. a tendency for 1s or 5s), which indicate strong agreement/disagreement.

Students and supervisors may wish to refer to the [Code of Practice for the Supervision of Research Higher Degree Candidates \(PDF 94k\)](#) during discussion of expectations.

Directions

Read each pair of statements on this sheet. Each expresses a standpoint supervisors and students may take. Please estimate your position and mark it on the scale. For example with statement 1, if you believe very strongly that it is the Supervisor's responsibility to select a good topic you would put a ring round '1'. If you think that both the Supervisor and the student should equally be involved you put a ring round '3' and if you think it is the student's responsibility to select a topic, put a ring round '5'.

Student name:

Supervisor/s names:

Date:

1. It is the supervisors' responsibility to select a research topic.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for selecting her/his own topic.
2. It is the Supervisor/s who decide which theoretical framework and/or methodology is most appropriate.	1 2 3 4 5	Students should decide theoretical framework and/or methodology they wish to use.
3. The Supervisor/s should develop an appropriate program and timetable of research and study for the student.	1 2 3 4 5	The Supervisor/s should leave the development of the program and timetable of research and study to the student.
4. The Supervisor/s are responsible for ensuring that the student has access to the appropriate services and facilities of the element and the University.	1 2 3 4 5	It is the student's responsibility to ensure that she/he has located and accessed all relevant services and facilities for the research.

5. It is the supervisors' responsibility to advise the student of the relevant policies, procedures and requirements relating to their candidature.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for being familiar with the relevant policies, procedures and requirements relating to their candidature.
6. Student-supervisor relationships are purely professional and personal relationships should not develop.	1 2 3 4 5	Close personal relationships are essential for successful supervision.
7. The Supervisor/s should insist on regular meetings with the student.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should decide when she/he wants to meet with the Supervisor/s.
8. The principal supervisor is responsible for coordinating all communication between the supervisors and the student.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should coordinate all communication between the members of the supervisory team.
9. The Supervisor/s should check regularly that the student is working consistently and on task.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should work independently and not have to account for how and where time is spent.
10. The supervisor/s should ensure that the thesis is finished by the maximum submission date.	1 2 3 4 5	As long as a student works steadily she/he can take as long as she/he needs to finish the work.
11. Supervisor/s should insist on seeing all drafts of work to ensure that the student is on the right track.	1 2 3 4 5	Students should submit drafts of work only when they want constructive criticism from the Supervisor/s.
12. Supervisor/s should assist in the writing of the thesis if necessary and should ensure that the presentation is flawless.	1 2 3 4 5	The writing of the thesis should only ever be the student's own work and the student must take full responsibility for presentation of the thesis.
13. Supervisor/s are responsible for decisions regarding the standard of the thesis.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for decisions concerning the standard of the thesis.
14. Supervisor/s are responsible for deciding on the recognition received for the student's and supervisor/s contributions to publications that arise during and after candidature.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should decide on the recognition received for joint contribution to publications that arise during and after candidature.