



Expectations of Higher Degrees by Research Supervision

You can use this questionnaire to work through your expectations of your HDR candidacy with your supervisor. Circle the number closest to the statement that you think accurately reflects that person's level of responsibility. There are no right or wrong answers, but this can help begin a conversation with your supervisor about your rights and responsibilities as an HDR student.

1. Choosing and planning a research project

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| The supervisor should lead research area selection and project scoping. | 1 2 3 4 5 | The student should choose the research area and outline their project. |
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2. Theoretical framework

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| The supervisor will decide on the best theoretical framework for the research project. | 1 2 3 4 5 | It is up to the student to settle on the theoretical framework they will use on their research project. |
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3. Assumptions that may impact on research

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| The theoretical, methodological and philosophical assumptions held by the supervisor and the student should be as closely aligned as possible. | 1 2 3 4 5 | It is not necessary for supervisor and student to agree on all or even most aspects of the research project. |
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4. Programme of study

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| The supervisor should provide the student with a detailed programme of study, including research methods, skills development and a timetable for completion. | 1 2 3 4 5 | The student is responsible for designing their own research programme. |
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5. Locating services and facilities

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| The supervisor needs to ensure that their student is aware of all services offered by the university, including library and support services. | 1 2 3 4 5 | The student should familiarise themselves with the university's facilities and support services. |
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6. Supervisor / student relationship

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| The relationship between student and supervisor should be completely professional and at arm's length to ensure objectivity. | 1 2 3 4 5 | Students and supervisors need to be able to connect on a personal level to work together effectively over the life of the project. |
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7. Meetings

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| It is the supervisor's responsibility to set the meeting schedule with students and ensure close and regular contact to monitor progress towards completion. | 1 2 3 4 5 | The student should manage the schedule and type of meetings with the supervisor. |
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8. Use of time

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| The supervisor should be aware of what the student is working on at all times to ensure timely completion. | 1 2 3 4 5 | The student should manage their time independently without having to account for how their research time is spent. |
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9. Publication outcomes

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| The supervisor should assist the student to publish their work by publishing with their student. | 1 2 3 4 5 | Publishing outcomes are entirely up to the student. |
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10. Managing drafts

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| Each draft should be presented to the supervisor for assessment and guidance. | 1 2 3 4 5 | The student should seek feedback on drafts in accordance with their own method of work. |
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11. Thesis writing

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| Writing the thesis should be a collaborative exercise between student and supervisor. | 1 2 3 4 5 | Every part of the thesis should be the student's own work. |
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12. Responsibility for standard of thesis

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| The supervisor needs to ensure that all aspects of the thesis, from content to format, are of a submittable standard. | 1 2 3 4 5 | The student is ultimately responsible for the standard of the submitted thesis. |
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