

SUPERVISOR EXPECTATIONS [Kiley & Cadman (1997), adapted from work by Brown & Atkins (1988). Effective Teaching in Higher Education]

The following is a downloadable tool which is a useful way to start a discussion around PhD researcher and supervisor expectations and responsibilities at the beginning of the researcher's PhD process. It may also be revisited during the process if expectations and responsibilities need to be revisited. The downloadable tool can be formally completed by supervisors and researchers or used as the catalyst for a conversation. There are various versions of the questions in the tool and supervisors may change/modify/add/remove questions to enhance the relevance of the tool to their research area.

Read each pair of statements below and then estimate your position on each. For example, with statement 1, if you believe very strongly that it is the supervisor's responsibility to select a good research topic you would put a ring around '1'. If you think that both the supervisor and the PhD researcher should be equally involved put a ring around '3' and if you think it is definitely the PhD researcher's responsibility to select a topic, then select '5'.

	SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES	RATING					PHD RESEARCHER'S RESPONSIBILITIES
1	It is the supervisor's responsibility to select a research topic	1	2	3	4	5	The PhD researcher is responsible for selecting his/her own topic
2	It is the supervisor who decides which theoretical framework or methodology is most appropriate	1	2	3	4	5	PhD researchers should decide which theoretical framework or methodology is most appropriate
3	The supervisor should insist on regular meetings with the PhD researcher	1	2	3	4	5	The PhD researcher should decide when she/he wants to meet with the supervisor
4	The supervisor should develop an appropriate programme and timetable of research and study for the PhD researcher	1	2	3	4	5	The supervisor should leave the development of the programme of study to the PhD researcher
5	The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the PhD researcher is introduced to the appropriate services and facilities of the department and University	1	2	3	4	5	It is the PhD researcher's responsibility to ensure that she/he has located and accessed the appropriate services and facilities of the department and University
6	Supervisors should only accept PhD researchers when they have specific knowledge of the research topic.	1	2	3	4	5	Supervisors should feel free to accept PhD researchers, even if they do not have specific knowledge of the PhD researcher's research topic
7	The supervisor should check regularly that the PhD researcher is working consistently and on task	1	2	3	4	5	The PhD researcher should work independently and not have to account for how and where time is spent
8	A warm supportive relationship between supervisor and PhD researcher is critical for successful candidature	1	2	3	4	5	A personal, supportive relationship is inadvisable because it may obstruct objectivity for both PhD researcher and supervisor.
9	The supervisor is responsible for arranging ethical approval for the research	1	2	3	4	5	It is the responsibility of the PhD researcher to arrange ethical approval for the research
10	The supervisor should insist on seeing all drafts of work to ensure that the PhD researcher is on the right track	1	2	3	4	5	PhD researchers should submit drafts of work only when they want the supervisor's constructive criticism
11	The supervisor is responsible for providing emotional support and encouragement to the PhD researcher	1	2	3	4	5	Personal counselling and support are not the supervisor's responsibility - PhD researchers should look elsewhere
12	The supervisor should assist in the writing of the thesis, if necessary	1	2	3	4	5	The writing of the thesis should only ever be the PhD researcher's own work
13	The supervisor is responsible for decisions regarding the standard of the thesis	1	2	3	4	5	The PhD researcher is responsible for decisions concerning the standard of the thesis