

Expectations of Research Supervision

Supervisors and research students often have differing expectations of supervision. The supervisor and student should complete this scale independently and then compare their responses. Circle a number depending on whether you think the responsibility lies more with the supervisor or the student.

	Supervisor	Rating	Student
1.	It is the supervisor's responsibility to select the research topic.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for selecting her/his own topic.
2.	The supervisor should decide which theoretical framework and/or methodology is most appropriate.	1 2 3 4 5	The students should decide which theoretical framework and/or methodology they wish to use.
3.	The supervisor should develop an appropriate program and timetable of research and study for the student.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should develop their own program and timetable of research.
4.	The supervisor should ensure that the student has access to the resources and facilities that they need.	1 2 3 4 5	It is the student's responsibility to locate and access all necessary resources and facilities.
5.	It is the supervisors' responsibility to advise the student of all relevant policies, procedures and requirements.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for being familiar with the relevant policies, procedures and requirements.
6.	It's up to the supervisor to build an appropriate professional relationship with the student.	1 2 3 4 5	It is the student's responsibility to manage the relationship with their supervisor.
7.	The supervisor should insist on regular meetings with the student.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should decide when she/he wants to meet.
8.	The supervisor should check regularly that the student is working consistently and on track.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should work independently and not have to account for how and where time is spent.
9.	It is the supervisor's responsibility to should ensure that the thesis is finished by the required submission date.	1 2 3 4 5	It is up to the student to finish within the allocated timeframe.
10.	The supervisor should insist on seeing all drafts of work to ensure that the student is on the right track.	1 2 3 4 5	It's up to the student to decide when to show drafts of their work.
11.	The supervisor should assist in the writing, editing and presentation of the thesis.	1 2 3 4 5	The writing of the thesis should only be the student's own work and they must take full responsibility for presentation of the thesis.
12.	The supervisor is responsible for deciding when the thesis can be submitted for examination.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should decide when they are ready to submit the thesis for examination.

Adapted from: Moses, I. (1985). Supervising postgraduates. HERDSA Green Guide No 3, Kensington: Higher Education Research & Development Society of Australasia.