

Expectations of research supervision

This questionnaire is designed to facilitate discussion about the expectations of PhD students and their supervisors. The questions cover many of the issues that may arise when supervising a PhD project. It is recommended that the form is first completed independently by the supervisor and doctoral candidate and that the answers are discussed in a supervision meeting later on. The main aim of this process is to support PhD students and supervisors to build an effective working relationship for the duration of the PhD project.

Adapted and modified after Linda Byrne and Greg Tooley, Deakin University, based on a questionnaire by M. Kiley und K. Cadman, Advisory Centre for University Education, The University of Adelaide, nach I. Moses, Centre for Learning and Teaching, University of Technology, Sydney.

https://www.deakin.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0027/48852/expectations_in_research_supervision.pdf, last retrieved on 2 December 2025.

Supplemented on 3 June 2024.

A. Who is responsible?

Indicate your opinion on the issues in the first table by circling a number on the line in the middle column. Note any comments or clarifications in the right column.

Who shall be responsible for...					Comments
1.	Selection of the PhD student's research topic	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
2.	Establishing the theoretical framework for the research work	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
3.	Development of the individual work sections (chapters / publications)	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
4.	Identifying a program of background reading or study for the PhD student	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
5.	Developing a schedule for completion of tasks that the PhD student will undertake during the studies.	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
6.	Organising regular meetings between PhD student and supervisor/ thesis committee.	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
7.	Making the PhD student aware of facilities and resources in the department and university	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
8.	Preparing the PhD student for public presentations of research ideas or results	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
9.	Providing resources that will support the PhD students' research	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
10.	Developing a network of fellow students or staff for the PhD student	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
11.	Ensuring the PhD student's program is proceeding according to plan	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
12.	Providing emotional support and encouragement to the PhD student	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
13.	Maintaining an effective working relationship between supervisor and PhD student	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
14.	Deciding which publications will be part of the dissertation	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
15.	Editing parts of the dissertation that are not accompanied as a co-author	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
16.	Ensuring the thesis will be of an acceptable standard when examined	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
17.	Ensuring the current research literature has been identified and read by the PhD student	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	
18.	Further topics	1 2 3 4 5			
		Supervisor		PhD student	

B. Do you agree?

Circle the point on the line that represents your view on the following issues.

					Comments		
19.	A strong personal relationship between supervisor and PhD student is inadvisable during the PhD	1	2	3	4	5	
		Disagree			Agree		
20.	The supervisor should assist the PhD student in writing the thesis if necessary	1	2	3	4	5	
		Disagree			Agree		
21.	The supervisor should see all drafts of the PhD student's written work	1	2	3	4	5	
		Disagree			Agree		
22.	The supervisor should assist the PhD student in completing the analysis of the project data	1	2	3	4	5	
		Disagree			Agree		
23.	The supervisor should provide detailed commentary on all written work submitted by the PhD student	1	2	3	4	5	
		Disagree			Agree		
24.	The supervisor's written comments should normally be returned within 2 weeks from time of submission	1	2	3	4	5	
		Disagree			Agree		
25.	The supervisor should be informed if the PhD student has difficulties with the PhD.	1	2	3	4	5	
		Disagree			Agree		
26.	Further topics	1	2	3	4	5	
		Disagree			Agree		