

Doctoral Supervision Development Guide

This guide is intended to facilitate a discussion between newly enrolled doctoral candidates and their supervisor(s) in order to clarify their respective expectations and to assist in the development of their working relationship.

All of the parties listed below strongly recommend that you hold such a discussion within six months of registration, because it will help to avoid the most common pitfalls and misunderstandings in the progress of supervised research.

The candidate should confirm to the Postgraduate Adviser of your Department that this discussion has taken place (there is no need to notify the School of Graduate Studies).

Your discussion

It is suggested that the candidate and main supervisor consider the following questions in advance, and use them as the basis for your discussion:

- What am I doing as a supervisor that is especially helpful to you?
- What do you think I could do to be of further help?
- Are you progressing at the rate you expected?
- What do you feel are the particular problems and/or issues that you would welcome help with?
- Are there any aspects of our respective roles, or of our supervisory relationship, which need to be clarified or reviewed?
- Are you on track to complete the requirements of your provisional registration?

Issues that you may wish to discuss include the full research proposal, the frequency and duration of meetings, preparation for meetings, the level and rate of work expected, the role of co-supervisors and advisers, intellectual property, authorship of papers, availability of equipment, and/or any changes in the student's or supervisor's situation which may affect supervision or progress.

Sources of other information and help

- All postgraduate guidelines may be found on the web at www.postgrad.auckland.ac.nz, including [Statute and Guidelines for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy](#), [Senate Guidelines on Thesis Supervision](#), [Getting into Supervision: A Checklist for Students](#), and [Postgraduate Research Supervision: Getting Started on Supervision](#).
- Student Learning Services offers training for research students – see <http://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/student-learning/>.
- The Centre for Learning and Research in Higher Education offers staff development – see <http://www.clear.auckland.ac.nz/>

If either of you feel that there are still aspects of your progress or your working relationship for which you need guidance or help, please contact one or more of the following:

- Postgraduate Adviser or Head of your Department
- Associate Dean (Postgraduate) of your Faculty
- School of Graduate Studies, tel 09 373 7599 ext 81321, email sgsadmin@auckland.ac.nz
- AUSA Advocacy Service, tel 09 923 7294, email advocacymanager@ausa.org.nz, web www.ausa.org.nz