



## Supervisor and Student: Setting Expectations Questionnaire

**The questionnaire is a prompt for supervisors and students to use in an initial meeting to discuss expectations and supervisory/learning styles. It may also be useful for the supervisory team to revisit this later on in the degree.**

Read each of the statements below and decide on your position for each. For example if you believe strongly that it is the responsibility of the supervisor circle '1', if you believe strongly that it is the responsibility of the student circle '5'. If you believe it is a joint responsibility circle '3'. There are 9 statements and 4 more blank rows for supervisors to add their own statements if they wish.

|                                                                                                                                            |   |   |   |   |   |                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. It is the responsibility of the supervisor/s to select a research topic.                                                                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | The student is responsible for selecting their own topic.                                                                               |
| 2. It is the supervisor/s who decide which theoretical framework and/or methodology is most appropriate.                                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Students should decide theoretical framework and/or methodology they wish to use.                                                       |
| 3. The supervisor/s should develop an appropriate program and timetable of research and study for the student.                             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | The supervisor/s should leave the development of the program and timetable of research and study to the student.                        |
| 4. The supervisor/s are responsible for ensuring that the student has access to the appropriate services and facilities at the University. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have located and accessed all relevant services and facilities for the research. |
| 5. The supervisor is responsible for providing emotional support and encouragement to the student.                                         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Personal counselling and support are not the responsibility of the supervisor – students should look elsewhere.                         |

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| 6. The supervisor/s should insist on regular meetings with the student.                                                      | 1 2 3 4 5 | The student should decide when they want to meet with the supervisor/s.                                                                            |
| 7. The supervisor/s should ensure that the thesis is finished by the maximum submission date.                                | 1 2 3 4 5 | As long as a student works steadily they can take as long as she/he needs to finish the work.                                                      |
| 8. Supervisor/s should insist on seeing all drafts of work to ensure that the student is on the right track.                 | 1 2 3 4 5 | Students should submit drafts of work only when they want constructive criticism from the Supervisor/s.                                            |
| 9. Supervisor/s should assist in the writing of the thesis if necessary and should ensure that the presentation is flawless. | 1 2 3 4 5 | The writing of the thesis should only ever be the student's own work and the student must take full responsibility for presentation of the thesis. |
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This questionnaire has been adapted from [Griffith University](#) and the [Oxford Learning Institute](#) and was originally adapted from Ingrid Moses, Moses, I. (1985) *Supervising Postgraduates*. (HERDSA Green Guide No. 3) Codes of Practice for Supervisors of PhD and Masters (UTS) University of Technology, Sydney, Australia.