

Expectations in Research Supervision

Supervisors and research students often have differing expectations of supervision. The supervisor and student should complete this questionnaire independently, then compare their responses. Circle a number depending on whether you think the responsibility lies more with the supervisor or the student. If you think they share equal responsibility, circle 3.

	Supervisor	Rating	Student
1	It's the supervisor's responsibility to select the research topic	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for selecting their own topic
2	The supervisor should decide which theoretical framework and/or methodology is most appropriate	1 2 3 4 5	The student should decide which theoretical framework and/or methodology to use
3	The supervisor should develop an appropriate programme and timetable of research for the student	1 2 3 4 5	The student should develop their own programme and timetable of research
4	The supervisor should ensure that the student has access to the resources and facilities they need	1 2 3 4 5	It is the student's responsibility to identify and locate all necessary resources and facilities
5	It is the supervisor's responsibility to advise the student of all relevant policies, procedures, and requirements	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for familiarising themselves 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 they want to meet
8	The supervisor should check regularly that the student is working consistently and is 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's the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that the thesis is finished by the required submission date	1 2 3 4 5	It's the student's responsibility to finish within the allocated timeframe
10	The supervisor should insist on seeing all drafts of work	1 2 3 4 5	It's up to the student to decide when to show drafts of work
11	The supervisor should assist in the writing, editing, and presentation of the thesis	1 2 3 4 5	The student should take full responsibility for the writing and presentation of the thesis
12	The supervisor is responsible for deciding when the thesis should 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.