

## Statement of principles for postgraduate supervision

S2007/476B

IN A CONTEXT OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF INDIVIDUAL AUTONOMY AND THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE THIS STATEMENT IS WRITTEN IN THE BELIEF THAT THERE IS A RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIP AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY BETWEEN SUPERVISOR AND STUDENT.

<p><b>THE SUPERVISOR AND THE STUDENT:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will establish agreed roles and clear processes to be maintained by both parties. In the case of joint supervision everybody's role needs to be clarified.</li> <li>2. Will meet regularly and as frequently as is reasonable to ensure steady progress towards the completion of the proposal, research report, or dissertation or thesis. This time varies but the normal minimum requirement for face-to-face contact spread across each year of registration is: 10 contact hours for an Honours project, 15 contact hours for a Masters by research report and 24 contact hours for a Masters by dissertation and a PhD.</li> <li>3. Will keep appointments, be punctual and respond timeously to messages.</li> <li>4. Will keep one another informed of any planned vacations or absences as well as changes in his or her personal circumstances that might impact on the work schedule. Unplanned absences or delays should be discussed as soon as possible and arrangements should be made, to catch up lost time.</li> <li>5. Will ensure that research on animal or human subjects is conducted according to the procedures and the requirements of the relevant University Ethics committee.</li> <li>6. Will together complete progress reports on the research project, as requested by each Faculty Graduate Studies Committee.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>THE SUPERVISOR:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertakes to provide guidance for the student's research project in relation to the design and scope of the project, the relevant literature and information sources, research methods and techniques and methods of data analysis.</li> <li>2. Has a responsibility to be accessible to the students.</li> <li>3. Will be prepared for the meeting with the student. This includes being up-to-date on the latest work in his/her area of expertise.</li> <li>4. Will expect written work as jointly agreed, and will return that work with constructive criticism within a timeframe (a suggestion of 2-4 weeks) jointly agreed at the outset of the research.</li> <li>5. Will provide advice that can help the student to improve his/her writing. This may include referrals for language training and academic writing. The supervisor will provide guidance on technical aspects of writing such as referencing as well as on discipline specific requirements. Detailed correction of drafts and instruction in aspects of language and style are not the responsibility of the supervisor.</li> <li>6. Will support the student in the production of a research report, dissertation or thesis. Provision should be allowed for adequate, mutually respectful, discussion around recommendations made.</li> <li>7. Will assist with the construction of a written time schedule which outlines the expected completion dates of successive stages of the work.</li> <li>8. Will ensure the student has the opportunity to present work at postgraduate/staff seminars/national/international conferences as appropriate.</li> <li>9. Will assist with the publication of research articles as appropriate.</li> <li>10. Will discuss the ownership of research conducted by the student in accordance with the University guidelines and rules on intellectual property, co-authorship and copyright.</li> <li>11. Will ensure that the research is conducted in accordance with the University's policy on plagiarism.</li> <li>12. Will ensure that the student is made aware in writing of the inadequacy of progress and/or of any work where the standard is below par. Acceptability will be according to criteria previously supplied to the student.</li> <li>13. Has a duty to refuse to allow the submission of sub-standard work for examination, regardless of the circumstances. If the student chooses to submit without the consent of the supervisor, then this should be clearly recorded and the appropriate procedures followed.</li> </ol>	<p><b>THE STUDENT:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertakes to work independently under the guidance of the supervisor. This includes reading widely to ensure that the literature pertinent to his/her chosen topic has been identified and consulted.</li> <li>2. Is obliged to make appointments to see the supervisor and will arrange meeting times well in advance.</li> <li>3. Will think carefully about how to get maximum benefit from these contact sessions by planning what he/she wants in these sessions.</li> <li>4. Should submit written work for discussion with the supervisor well in advance of a scheduled meeting. The kind and frequency of written work should be agreed with the supervisor at the outset of the research.</li> <li>5. Written work that is submitted should be relatively free from basic spelling mistakes, incorrect punctuation and grammatical errors. Responsibility for the accuracy of language, the overall structure and coherence of the final research report, dissertation or thesis rests with the student.</li> <li>6. Undertakes to heed the advice given by the supervisor and to engage in discussion around suggestions made. Ultimately the student has to take responsibility for the quality and presentation of the work.</li> <li>7. Should strive, within reasonable bounds, to maintain a focus on his/her research area and to work within the agreed time schedule.</li> <li>8. Will prepare material for presentations at seminars and conferences.</li> <li>9. Undertakes to submit papers for publication.</li> <li>10. Agrees to honour agreements about ownership of the research and in accordance with the University's guidelines and rules in relation to co-authorship, copyright and intellectual property.</li> <li>11. Will ensure that the work contains no instances of plagiarism and that all citations are properly referenced and that the list of references is accurate, complete and consistent.</li> <li>12. Agrees to work in accordance with the criteria of acceptability as supplied by the supervisor.</li> <li>13. Undertakes not to place the supervisor under undue pressure to submit work for examination until the supervisor is satisfied that it has reached an acceptable level of quality.</li> </ol>	<p>We confirm that we have read and understood this statement and agree to be guided by its principles for as long as we continue to work together.</p> <p>Name of student: _____</p> <p>Student's signature: _____</p> <p>Name of Supervisor: _____</p> <p>Supervisor's signature: _____</p> <p>Name of Co-Supervisor: _____</p> <p>Co-Supervisor's signature: _____</p> <p>The broad area of study is: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Provisional submission date is: _____</p> <p>Degree: _____</p> <p>School: _____</p> <p>Faculty: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p><b>Specific agreements pertaining to:</b> ownership and joint publication, funding, may be attached and signed.</p>

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.** It should be acknowledged that during the course of the research that both students and supervisors can feel aggrieved. In this event, these matters should be dealt with as swiftly as possible by the parties involved and, if necessary, the appropriate Postgraduate Coordinators and Committees. There is, in addition, a University Grievance Policy to help guide deliberations.