Statement of Expectations for Postgraduate Researchers and Supervisors

The University recognises the huge contribution that PGRs make to the institution, and places them at the heart of its vision to deliver life-enhancing research, innovation and education. This recognition is demonstrated in the eight commitments made to PGRs in order to facilitate them to achieve their potential and to create an ambitious, inclusive, supportive and collaborative research culture.

This document is intended to set out the key expectations for PGRs and their supervisors, and is a distillation of the policies, regulations and guidance set out in the Code of Practice. This can be used as a starting point for conversations between students and their supervisors when establishing and maintaining their partnership throughout the duration of the research programme.

Joint Expectations of PGRs and Supervisors

- Establish the parameters of the relationship (including meeting frequency / responding to emails / feedback etc.).
- Agree a project plan including milestones / deadlines, with the aim of submitting the project within the time frame set out at the outset of the programme.
- Agree a training and development plan and revisit periodically.
- Attend supervisory meetings on a regular basis.
- Keep a record of supervision meetings.
- Respond to communications in a timely manner.
- Maintain an open dialogue, discussing any issues at an early stage.

Expectations of PGRs

- Take ownership of the development and completion of the research project within the time frame set out at the outset of the programme.
- Familiarise yourself with your programme milestones and deadlines, building them into your project   .
- Consider what skills development is necessary in order to successfully complete the project and build towards career goals. Complete the DDP requirements, and the TNA with reference to the PGR Core Competencies.
- Comply with all relevant departmental and institutional policies and processes, as well as those of your funder, if applicable.
- Uphold the principles of research ethics and integrity, and adhere to the University's Policy on Good Research and Innovation Practices
- Be aware of your own wellbeing and seek support if you have any issues or concerns.

More details can be found in the PGR Code of Practice here.

Expectations of Supervisors

- Undertake mandatory Continuous Professional Development activities in relation to supervision.
- Provide guidance on the project plans to enable completion within the timeframe
- Ensure an appropriate induction for the student takes place, outlining relevant policies /processes / standards, and options for pastoral support.
- Recommend training / development opportunities (bearing in mind previous academic attainment / necessary skills to complete project / career aspirations).
- Encourage the student to engage with the wider research community in order to build a peer support network (particularly important for lone scholars / part-time and off-campus students), and raise awareness opportunities to develop writing and presentation skills (journals / conferences).
- Outline the parameters of acceptable working patterns in relation to the research project with an appreciation of work-life balance.
- Provide academic guidance on all facets of research.
- Monitor students' progress and ensure that they are aware of any areas for improvement, through constructive and timely feedback, and provided with appropriate support.
- Be alert to the wellbeing of the student and maintain a knowledge of relevant services to signpost to, if necessary.
- Complete all administrative requirements in a timely manner.

More details can be found in the Code of Practice here.