UNSW Supervising Doctoral Studies (SDS)
Quick Reference Guide

UNSW Supervising Doctoral Studies resource is designed to help both new and experienced research supervisors to mentor candidates to a timely completion and enhance the professional practice of supervisors.

It is available to all UNSW staff and will require your staff ID, and password for authentication PLUS a self enrolment key. Instructions and details on self-enrolment key can be accessed via Moodle Enrolment Instructions on this guide, or view the step by step visual instructions or video available via: https://research.unsw.edu.au/how-do-i-gain-access

Supporting policy & guidelines for supervisors:

Moodle Enrolment Instructions
2. Type in in self enrolment (participant) key: SupervisorDev01 (case sensitive)

OR view Step-by-Step instructions & video via: https://research.unsw.edu.au/how-do-i-gain-access

Topic suggestions based on Full-time supervision of PhD candidate *

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Pre-candidature:
- Reflecting on your experience (1)
  - What makes an effective supervisor?
- The contemporary doctorate (1)
  - Doctoral requirements
  - Diversity of candidates
- The doctoral supervisor (1)
  - Institutional requirements
  - Key academic tasks
  - Checklist: Supervisor’s role
- Investing time in attracting & selecting (2)
- Fundamental questions (2)
- Optimising your ability to attract desirable applicants (2)
- What are you looking for? (2)
- Evaluation research potential (2)
- Managing applicant’s expectations (2)
- Pedagogical approach to supervision practice (3)

Getting Started (Year 1)
- Supervisor styles (3)
- Aligning supervisory styles with candidates (3)
- Expectations, roles & responsibilities (3)
- Diversity & inclusivity barriers to progression (3)
- Developing a positive research culture for your candidate (4)
- Academic Integrity (4)
- Advising on research specifics (4)
- Supporting your candidate’s skills & career development (4)
- Project Management of candidature (4)
- Foundations for good feedback (4)
- Key challenges facing candidates & supervisors (7)
- Aligning expectations & cultural differences (7)
- Responding to candidates with disabilities (7)
- Dealing with Plagiarism (7)
- Working with a supervisory team or mentor (8)

Maintaining Momentum (Year 2)
- Key areas of support for candidates (5)
- Assisting with academic problems (5)
- Supporting development of writing (5) (7)
- Supporting production of thesis (5)
- Giving feedback (5)
- Pastoral role of supervisor and impact upon candidate’s research & completion (5)
- Professional & networking opportunities (5)
- Supporting career development (5)
- Motivating candidates who are procrastinating (7)
- Managing relationships with co-supervisors (7)
- Managing relationships with candidates (7)

Final Stages (Year 3)
- Thesis assessment criteria (6)
- Institutional thesis regulations (6)
- Selecting examiners (6)
- Finalising & submitting the written thesis (6)
- Interpreting examiners’ reports (6)
- Understanding the role of a doctoral examiner (8)

Supervisory professional practice:
- Reflective practice and personal action plan for ongoing professional development (8)
- Elicit feedback on approach and practice and record changes in approach to supervision practice (8)
- Being a doctoral examiner (8)