



What Should We Do as PhD Supervisors: A Brief Guide to Supporting PhD Students in Their Research

PhD supervisors are responsible for guiding and supporting the student's research, ensuring timely progress, providing constructive feedback, and fostering a positive research environment, along with maintaining open communication and clear expectations. They are expected to;

1. **Guide student's research work and provide expertise through;**

- ✓ Giving **direction and focus** to refine their research question, develop a strong research plan, and ensure the research aligns with the field and contributes meaningfully.
- ✓ Providing **methodological expertise** such as guidance on research methods, data analysis techniques, and interpretation of findings.
- ✓ Supporting students to identify and overcome challenges in their research, offering constructive solutions and alternative approaches.

2. **Foster a positive research environment through;**

- ✓ Regular meetings and communication with the student to discuss progress, address concerns, and provide feedback.
- ✓ Creating open and honest communication, safe and supportive environment where students feel comfortable asking questions, sharing ideas, and receiving feedback.
- ✓ Act as mentors and guiding students through the PhD journey, offering encouragement, and helping them develop their research skills and confidence.
- ✓ Providing **timely and constructive feedback** on the student's research, both in writing and verbally.

3. **Ensure timely progress and completion** through;

- ✓ Closely monitoring the student's progress and ensuring that they are on track to complete their dissertation within a reasonable timeframe/roadmap.
- ✓ Setting realistic expectations for the student's progress and provide guidance on how to stay on track.
- ✓ Addressing any concerns or issues that may arise during the research process and work with the student to find solutions.
- ✓ Providing support and guidance during the final stages of the dissertation, including writing, editing, and defense.

4. **Maintaining professional standards** through;

- ✓ Upholding the highest ethical standards in their research and supervision practices;
- ✓ Maintaining professionalism and being approachable and responsive to the student's needs;
- ✓ Respecting the student's autonomy and allowing them to develop their own research ideas and approaches.
- ✓ Clearly communicating their expectations for the student's research and supervision process.

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