

Student Agreement to be Supervised by a Registered University of Adelaide Supervisor Who is Simultaneously Studying for a Research Degree

Division of Research & Innovation - Adelaide
Graduate Research School

Guidelines

1. Simultaneous Supervision

Where your supervisor or prospective supervisor enrolls in a higher degree by research (HDR) program at the University of Adelaide, your agreement is required for them to continue/commence acting in a supervisory capacity. Underlying this prohibition is the assumption that this approach best protects both the academic staff member and the HDR student(s) from any conflict of interest.

For the academic the most significant risk to be confronted is the allegation that the work of a student has been misappropriated to form part of the academic's own thesis. Such an allegation would be corrosive of both the supervisory relationship and the reputation of the academic. If proved it would amount to serious academic misconduct.

For the student the major risk stems from the same issue of the ownership of original research. That is the possibility of research, methodology or data will be appropriated by a research leader. Even if there is no appropriation the perception or suspicion that the student's work has found its way into the supervisor's thesis would cause a breakdown in the relationship. A starting point in this context is an acknowledgement that some students may feel disempowered in the relationship with their supervisor. Again any proved appropriation would amount to academic misconduct.

The final perspective is that of the University and its reputation. Instances of academic misconduct are rare; however, when they surface they cause great damage to a University's hard won reputation. The University has a legitimate interest in minimising and monitoring such issues.

2. Mitigation of Risk

The University acknowledges that a student can greatly benefit from the input of a supervisor who has particular experience and expertise in the candidate's research area, provided that:

1. The proximity of the supervisor's proposed thesis topic is distinct to that of the supervisor's enrolled student(s). In other words, there is no likelihood of overlap or crowding out. If there is a lack of delineation then the Dean of Graduate Studies will ordinarily not authorise the simultaneous supervision.
2. The supervisor's existing qualifications and research experience are sufficient for the level of supervisory responsibility being sought. In other words, the supervisor must already hold a qualification which is higher than or equal in status to the qualification the student is studying for. Where this is not the case, but the supervisor can demonstrate equivalent research experience, and is active in research and publishing in, or otherwise making original contributions to, a relevant field or discipline, the Dean of Graduate Studies may consider authorising appointment at the level of co-supervisor.
3. That the other members of the supervisory panel are responsible for monitoring of the demarcation between the two projects.

4. There is acknowledgement of the simultaneous supervision and agreement between all members of the supervisory panel to partake in the arrangement.
5. The Head of School approves the simultaneous supervision and undertakes to monitor this aspect of the candidature.

3. Agreement for Simultaneous Supervision

If you wish to proceed with a simultaneous supervision arrangement, having discussed the particulars of the situation with your supervisors/prospective supervisor in light of the risks outlined above, please complete the 'Simultaneous Supervision Agreement' that follows.

Simultaneous Supervision Agreement

1. Personal Details (Student to complete):

Student ID:	
Student Name:	
School/Discipline:	
Research Commencement Date:	
Program:	
Research Project area:	

2. Personal Details (Supervisor and enrolled HDR student to complete)

Staff/Student ID:	
Name:	
School/Discipline of employment:	
Highest qualification:	
Research experience relevant to the student's field of research:	
School/Discipline of HDR enrolment:	
HDR Program of study:	
HDR Program Research Project area:	

3. Proposed Supervision Details (Please list ALL supervisors)

Title	Supervisor's Name (in full)	Principal (P)/ Co- /External (E)	% Responsibility for Supervision	On Register? Y/N	School/Discipline

†NOTE: All Higher Degree Research students must be supervised by a panel comprising a principal and at least one co or external Supervisor. The principal supervisor has the primary responsibility for supervision and must be a member of the academic staff of the School/Discipline in which the student is enrolled, or, a titleholder (excluding visitors) with that School/Discipline. The principal supervisor must have a minimum of 60% on any student's panel. A co-supervisor may be an academic employee from any University School/Discipline (including a titleholder (excluding visitors)). An external supervisor (including visitors) has no formal or official association with the University and does not have affiliate or adjunct status. Each co-supervisor (including external) on the panel must be assigned a minimum of 20% of the responsibility for the supervision. A maximum of 3 supervisors may be on any student's panel.

Certification by Student

I acknowledge and accept that one of my supervisor's will be engaged in simultaneous supervision and study for their own higher degree by research.

Student name

Signature here

Date

