

Summary of changes to the Supervision Policy for Postgraduate Research Degrees (August 2020)

1. The policy was restructured and edited to fit the approved standard policy template in line with the [UoM Policy Framework](#).

2. The policy now allows for individuals on an Academic Teaching and Scholarship contract to be appointed as a main supervisor in some circumstances. The case for such appointments must be made by the individual's head of department/division and submitted to the Faculty Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research (or their delegate) for approval.

3. The policy also provides a route for Early Career Researchers to be appointed as main supervisor:

A member of staff without proven supervisory experience, can be listed as a main supervisor for the purpose of any internal project/funding applications and adverts for funded/self-funded projects. However, they must identify a suitable and experienced co-supervisor who will subsequently take on the main supervisor role for any appointed PGR in the first instance.

A member of staff without proven supervisory experience, who was listed as a main supervisor for the purpose of any internal project/funding applications and adverts for funded/self-funded projects, can be appointed as a co-supervisor but can be given a majority credit share. These individuals will be permitted to convert to main supervisor at the end of the PGR's first year of study if:

- *The student has progressed without any concerns or remedial action, into the second year of their programme;*
- *They have completed the relevant aspects of the relevant Faculty New Academics Programme (where applicable);*
- *They hold a contract that exceeds the student's anticipated submission date;*
- *The original main supervisor remains as part of the supervisory team and actively supports/mentors the member of staff in their role as main supervisor.*
- *Approval is granted by the Faculty Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research (or their delegate).*

4. The policy has been updated to allow for main supervisors to continue in the role after leaving the institution, if appropriate. These exceptional arrangements must be in best interest of the PGR and can only be approved where a suitable replacement supervisor from the University of Manchester cannot be found. This arrangement can only proceed where there is a co-supervisor at this University who is agreeable with the arrangement. A formal agreement between the University of Manchester and the main supervisor must be put in place.

5. The policy now notes that where a change of main supervisor is necessitated and where no appropriate alternative can be found at the University of Manchester, the Head of School (or their delegate) should support the student in exploring options for continuing their research through registration at other Higher Education Institutions or submitting their research for a lesser award.