

PGR Supervisor Guidance document

PGR Supervision Policy

This policy is based on three documents. It draws on the University policy that establishes supervision policy for all postgraduate research degrees, which is detailed in the [Supervision Policy for Postgraduate Research Degrees](#). It also draws on [The University of Manchester Statement of Research Expectations](#).

The Supervision Policy for Postgraduate Research Degrees establishes that the main supervisor needs to be a practising researcher. Practising researchers on a teaching or a teaching and scholarship contract, probationers, and/or visiting faculty may be appointed as a member of the supervisory team but not as a main supervisor (unless there is a case for exceptional appointment as indicated in 3.1 of the Supervision Policy for Postgraduate Research Degrees).

The University of Manchester Statement of Research Expectations sets out the expected performance levels for staff.

In line with the PGR strategy in Alliance MBS, all future postgraduate research recruitment and supervision within the School will adhere to the following, with all current supervisory arrangements unaffected:

PhD:

Normally the supervisory team should comprise of members of staff on teaching and research. Where this is not possible, the main supervisor must be on a teaching and research contract and a case for the co-supervisor must be presented to the School Postgraduate Research Committee (PGRC) for the appointment to be approved.

DBA:

Consistent with the University policy, the supervisory team must comprise of practising researchers with the main supervisor being on a teaching and research, or research-only contract (unless there is a case for exceptional appointment as indicated in 3.1 of the Supervision Policy).

'Minimal Research Activity' Criteria:

The University expected research performance levels for staff are that all staff¹ should normally produce a minimum of four 3* outputs in the past 5 years and should aspire for at least two of those outputs to be at 4* level as judged by peer review². Due recognition will be given to those whose work achieves equivalent levels in terms of outstanding research impact (economic, social or cultural).

Scholarships and Funding:

As stipulated by MDC, for UoM administered funding the supervisory team must meet the requirements outlined in the above policy.

¹ Pro-rata for part-time staff and those taking extended leave

² The University is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment. This declaration challenges the role played by the Impact Factor as the main means for evaluating publications and promotes the assessment of research on its own merits rather than on the basis of the journal in which it is published. <http://www.ascb.org>

Internships and External Supervision:

Internships do not usually involve external supervision, and if they do, then we need that relationship to be recognised in some way so that the external supervisor is aware of the obligations to the PGR and the University. Otherwise, we would be guilty of not following our own rules if there were an appeal later down the track.

An external supervision requires a contract (for the above reasons) - even if it is not going to result in any fees being paid (that part of the contract can be omitted).

Composition of Supervisory teams:

Supervisory teams should not normally be made up *exclusively* from supervisors who are close family members, couples or where there is a conflict of interest. In such cases, where two supervisors wish to supervise a PGR student, a third supervisor should be appointed independently by the Head of Division (or their appointee). The ratio of WAM in such cases is recommended to be 45:45:10 but is at the discretion of the Head of Division.

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