Summary of changes (September 2026 - Version 10.1)

Supervision Policy for Postgraduate Research Degrees

Purpose. This document summarises the principal changes made to the supervision policy and explains their effect and rationale. The amendments clarify eligibility across different supervisory roles, confirm the position of honorary and Professional Services staff, and improve signposting to supervisor development requirements.

Change type	Previous position	Revised provision	Effect of change	Rationale
Clarification	The policy contained supervisor eligibility criteria but focused primarily on the role of the main supervisor, with less clarity regarding the requirements for other supervisory roles.	The policy now distinguishes between the supervisory roles within a supervisory team and sets out the eligibility criteria for each role, including main supervisor, internal co-supervisor, external supervisor for collaborative agreements, and additional internal or external co-supervisors.	Clarifies supervisor eligibility requirements across all supervisory roles.	Removes ambiguity, supports consistent application of eligibility requirements across Faculties, and ensures staff understand the requirements associated with each supervisory role.
Clarification	The eligibility of individuals in specific categories, such as honorary staff associated with validated partner institutions, was not explicitly explained within the policy.	The policy clarifies how honorary staff affiliated with validated partner institutions may participate in supervision arrangements within existing validated programmes.	Clarifies the position of honorary staff within validated partnership arrangements.	Ensures the policy reflects established practice within validated programmes and avoids uncertainty about the eligibility of honorary staff who require University affiliation for administrative and system access purposes.
Clarification	The policy did not explicitly clarify the position of Professional Services staff in relation to supervisory roles.	The policy confirms that Professional Services staff would not normally be appointed as additional co-supervisors unless they also hold an eligible academic or research contract.	Clarifies eligibility expectations for Professional Services staff.	Provides clearer boundaries around supervisory appointments and ensures supervisory responsibilities remain aligned with appropriate academic or research expertise and contractual arrangements.
Addition	Responsibility for supervisor training and development was already included within the policy, but this was not a central focus of the proposed review.	The policy retains Faculty responsibility for determining mandatory supervisor training requirements and any consequences of non-compliance, with an additional link to the supervisor CPD webpage.	Improves signposting to supervisor development requirements without changing policy expectations.	Increases the visibility of supervisor training expectations and makes it easier for supervisors to access relevant CPD information and guidance.