The Supervisor-Student Relationship

Gillian Roddie
Postgraduate Advisory Service
build your ideal supervisor
build your ideal student
What is supervision?

- Supervisor the key person
- Vital for student development
- Mentorship / apprentice
- Secure and trusting relationship
discussion

1. Have you met your supervisor yet?
2. Are you aware of any particular strengths (supervisor)?
3. Are you aware of any potential challenges?
4. What can you do to work with these challenges?
Supervisor’s Responsibilities

Guidance
Advise on academic standard
Maintain regular contact
Meet regularly for formal supervision
Provide constructive feedback on written work
Guidance on presentation of research
Guidance on writing
Read the final thesis
Ensure prepared for viva
Assist with postdoctoral opportunities
Your Responsibilities

Undertake research training as agreed
Produce written work as agreed
Aware of process for confirmation
Decide when to submit thesis
Ensure thesis complies
Ask Questions
But…

These are only guidelines
Supervision is the number one complaint
Quality varies
So what can you do?
View the Supervisor as a hired consultant

Supervisor as a hired consultant
Paid to guide you and answer your queries
Use their expertise
Make the most of their time
Managing Your Supervisor

Find out:

Research Interests
Recent publications
Experience supervising
How much time they will have?
Will you be able to get on?
What kind of role does your supervisor expect?

Rowena Murray, ‘How to write a thesis’
Know Yourself

What are you good at?
What do areas need improvement?
   e.g. Communication style?
   Organisation?
Successful Students

1. Meet as often as necessary
2. Communicate well
3. Establish clear expectations
4. Set clear, regular goals
Be Proactive

1. find out what is expected
2. tackle concerns early on
3. discuss how to make guidance more effective
4. agree and organise process
Meetings

Set an agenda for your meeting (email)
Take as much time as necessary (no more)
What are outputs from meeting?
Set date of next meeting
What else?

- Establish **expectations early on**
- Set realistic time-based **goals**
- Set **deadlines**
- Ask for **help** when needed
- Talk to **others**
If all else fails

1. Go to supervisor
2. Postgraduate Advisory Service
3. Director of Teaching & Learning
Supports

Postgraduate Advisory Service
http://www.tcd.ie/Senior_Tutor/postgraduate/

Graduate Student’s Union
http://www.gsu.tcd.ie/

Graduate Studies
http://www.tcd.ie/Graduate_Studies/

Student Counselling Service
http://www.tcd.ie/Student_Counselling/
Postgraduate Advisory Service

Thank you for your time

Visit our website at:
http://www.tcd.ie/Senior_Tutor/postgraduate/