

SUPERVISION: CLARIFYING EXPECTATIONS

This role perception scale (adapted from Moses, 1985) can help you to clarify your expectations of your supervisor and your supervisor's expectation of you.

Each pair of statements expresses an extreme view that supervisors and students may take. Estimate your position on each issue and mark it on the scale, then ask your supervisor to do this. Use it as a basis for discussion.

Role perception scale

	Supervisor responsibility	Rating	Student responsibility
1	Select research topic	1 2 3 4 5	Select research topic
2	Decide on theoretical framework	1 2 3 4 5	Decide on theoretical framework
3	Ensure access to necessary facilities	1 2 3 4 5	Identify and access necessary facilities
4	Select appropriate research methodology	1 2 3 4 5	Select appropriate research methodology
5	Decide on thesis structure	1 2 3 4 5	Decide on thesis structure
6	Initiate and decide on frequency of meetings	1 2 3 4 5	Initiate and decide on frequency of meetings
7	Avoid close personal relationship with student	1 2 3 4 5	Build close personal relationship with the supervisor
8	Develop time-line and keep student on track	1 2 3 4 5	Develop time-line and keep on track
9	Insist on reading all chapter drafts and giving feedback	1 2 3 4 5	Ask supervisor to read chapters and give feedback
10	Terminate candidature if think student unlikely to succeed	1 2 3 4 5	Expect support from supervisor even if having difficulties
11	Assist student in writing, editing and proofreading	1 2 3 4 5	Does all writing, editing and proofreading
12	Provide a bibliography of all the resources needed	1 2 3 4 5	Locate all resources and develop bibliography

Adapted from: Moses, I. (1985). Supervising postgraduates. HERDSA Green Guide No 3, Kensington: Higher Education Research & Development Society of Australasia.