

Student Perceptions of Research Supervision (SPORS)

SPORS is a tool that students and supervisors can use to facilitate discussion about similarities and differences in expectations of supervision. The SPORS questionnaires can be useful early in research candidature but also throughout candidature in response to changes in the supervisory relationship. Participation in SPORS is voluntary.

SPORS consists of a pair of matching questionnaires – one for students and one for supervisors. Each questionnaire has 36 matching questions. Supervisors can complete a new questionnaire for each student or use one questionnaire for all students. Similarly, students can complete a new questionnaire for each supervisor in their supervisory team, or complete a single questionnaire for all supervisors. The questionnaires can be adapted to the needs of each student/supervisor pair by adding or deleting questions.

Completed questionnaires should be compared for each supervisor/student pair and time set aside for discussion. This discussion may focus on questions where the pair has substantially different responses.

The Graduate Education Officers in the Graduate Research School are available if student/supervisor pairs would like to discuss SPORS, suggest how SPORS might be adapted, or facilitate discussion about differences in SPORS responses. Supervisors and students may also find it useful to refer to the Graduate Research Training policy regarding UWA's expectations of supervision:

<http://www.governance.uwa.edu.au/procedures/policies/policies-and-procedures?method=document&id=UP12%2F11>

Please contact the Graduate Research School if you have any questions about SPORS:

Graduate Research and Scholarships Office (M358)
35 Stirling Highway
Room G13, Hackett Hall

Telephone (+61 8) 6488 2807

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

As a student, I expect a supervisor to:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1 Help me with topic selection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2 Determine the direction of my research throughout candidacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 Set research deadlines for me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 Require written work from me on a pre-arranged schedule	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5 Monitor and provide feedback on the quality of my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6 Monitor and provide feedback on my progress towards completion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7 Allow me to make independent research decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8 Help me to overcome technical problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9 Keep records of our meetings and agreed actions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10 Be available to meet with me individually to discuss my research at least once every two weeks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11 Be available for discussion about research outside of pre-arranged meeting times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12 Provide written feedback on drafts of my academic writing within two weeks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13 Be experienced in supervision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14 Be an expert in my research area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15 Respect my existing knowledge and skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16 Introduce me to scholarly networks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17 Allow me to consult other people for expertise and/or skills development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18 Assist me in appointing co-supervisors or external supervisors if required	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19 Assist me in developing research networks with other students at UWA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20 Inform me about research support available to UWA students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21 Suggest ways I can make effective use of my work time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22 Help me to develop my academic writing skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
23	Assist me to publish my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24	Discuss intellectual property issues related to my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
25	Provide me with advice about career paths, employment prospects and professional development opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26	Provide me with information about the procedures of the Graduate Research School, including the policies, guidelines, forms and due dates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27	Provide me with information about the school and the staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28	Ensure resources are available for my proposed research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
29	Provide me with opportunities to participate in the intellectual life of the school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
30	Provide me with opportunities to present my work to peers and colleagues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
31	Assist me to develop my presentation skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
32	Provide guidelines for how to manage any conflicts we may have	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33	Treat me fairly in terms of time and effort	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
34	Be interested in my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
35	Be available for discussion of any personal issues I may have	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
36	Assist me in developing social connections with other students at UWA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SUPERVISOR QUESTIONNAIRE

As supervisor, I expect to:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1 Help you with topic selection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2 Determine the direction of your research throughout candidacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 Set research deadlines for you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 Receive written work from you on a pre-arranged schedule	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5 Monitor and provide feedback on the quality of your research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6 Monitor and provide feedback on your progress towards completion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7 Allow you to make independent research decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8 Help you to overcome technical problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9 Keep records of our meetings and agreed actions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10 Be available to meet with me individually to discuss your research at least once every two weeks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11 Be available for discussion about research outside of pre-arranged meeting times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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