

# GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

## Victoria University

The purpose of this questionnaire is to provide feedback relating to research students' perceptions of their experience of working with their Principal Research Supervisor at Victoria University for the duration of your degree. This is designed to help your supervisor develop and maintain good skills in research training and guidance for postgraduate students. Your responses will be used individually by your supervisor to reflect on your experience throughout your research degree. The information you provide here may be supplied by your supervisor on a voluntary basis to their School, Faculty or the University as feedback relevant to quality assessment and professional development in the area of postgraduate supervision. Your supervisor will only supply material from these questionnaires **on the basis of anonymity for the student** – you will not be identified in any way.

You will be asked to complete this questionnaire after you have submitted your research thesis and to return it within 14 days. The purpose of the timing is to encourage you to reflect retrospectively on the quality of supervision you have been offered over the whole of your candidature for the research degree.

If you have any questions about the questionnaire or wish to make any additional comments about your experience as a graduate research student please contact the Associate Dean (Research and Research Training) in your Faculty: Professor John Carlson, [john.carlson@vu.edu.au](mailto:john.carlson@vu.edu.au) (Faculty of AEHD), Professor Gregory Baxter (Faculty of HES), [Gregory.Baxter@vu.edu.au](mailto:Gregory.Baxter@vu.edu.au), or Assoc. Professor Santina Bertone (Faculty of Business and Law), [santina.bertone@vu.edu.au](mailto:santina.bertone@vu.edu.au). You may also contact Professor Elaine Martin, Director of Graduate Research Studies, by email: [elaine.martin@vu.edu.au](mailto:elaine.martin@vu.edu.au)

### Section 1. About Your Course

- (a) Title in full of the research degree for which you have completed your thesis/coursework:  
(e.g., PhD, Master of Arts, D. Ed., D.B.A.):

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- (b) What was your general field of study for the degree?  
(e.g., education, civil engineering, creative writing, pure maths, anthropology, law, biology, history)

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- (c) Type of attendance for this degree  
(tick one only):

- Wholly or mainly full-time
- Wholly or mainly part-time

### Section 2. Your Experience of Working With Your Principal Research Supervisor

*To answer the questions below please circle the number beside each statement that most accurately reflects your view. You may choose from a scale where '1' means that you strongly DISAGREE with the statement and '5' means that you strongly AGREE. Circle 'n/a' if the statement does not apply to your experience.*

Strongly Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly Agree	Does not apply
	Disagree	disagree	Agree

#### 2.1 Academic Aspects of Supervision

##### 2.1.1 During my candidature my principal supervisor:

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provided guidance that matched my needs                                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | n/a |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted different strategies for guiding me in my research work            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | n/a |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraged me to present my work at various research forums                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | n/a |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helped me to make contacts and network with other researchers in the field | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | n/a |

• Really stretched me to do the best I possibly can	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Knew the area of research I'm working in very well	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Provided positive acknowledgement of my work	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Encouraged me to publish my work and/or present it at scholarly conferences	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Provided me with constructive criticism and feedback	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Provided me with timely criticism and feedback	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

Overall I would describe the principal supervision of the academic aspects of my research in the following way:

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## 2.2 Management of the Processes Surrounding Research Supervision

### 2.2.1 My principal supervisor:

• Helped me use my time effectively to work towards timely and successful completion of my research project	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Was available for regular consultation	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Tried to be flexible and to fit in with our respective commitments	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Understood well the administrative aspects of undertaking the research degree	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Recognised and embedded the importance of ethics in undertaking research	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Operated in a timely, efficient and up-to-date manner in relation to University requirements for the research degree	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Nominated examiners for my thesis/project in a timely manner	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

Overall I would describe my principal supervisor's management of the processes surrounding the research degree in the following way:

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## 2.3 Support for Research Students

### 2.3.1 My principal supervisor:

• Helped me to develop my career in my chosen field of endeavour	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Was approachable and supportive through any academic difficulties	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Was supportive through any personal difficulties	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Was keen that I participate actively in the research culture in my Department/ Faculty/University	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Maintained appropriate professional boundaries in our relationship	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Did her/his best to ensure I had the essential facilities for my work	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
• Referred me to appropriate student support services and organizations (e.g. Counselling Services, Equity and Social Justice, etc.) as necessary/requested	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

We would welcome your open-ended comments to the questions below.

2.4. What aspects are the most in need of improvement and do you have any suggestions as to how these might be improved?  
Please write below:

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2.5 If you have any further comments you would like to make about your experience as a research student please write below.  
Should you wish to comment in confidence on your experience of research supervision to a person other than your Principal Supervisor, please e-mail your Faculty Associate Dean (Research and Research Training) or the Director of Graduate Research Studies using the contact details listed on the first page of this questionnaire.

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**Thank you for your time and cooperation.**

**Please return the completed questionnaire within 14 days of receipt to your Principal Supervisor as listed below:**

**Dr/Ms/Mr** \_\_\_\_\_

**School or Unit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Faculty/Centre/Institute:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Victoria University, PO Box 14428, Melbourne City MC, Victoria 8001, Australia**

**Alternatively, please complete this form electronically and return by e-mail to:**

**(Supervisor e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_)**