

GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATING A 3RD SUPERVISOR FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

Within the University, postgraduate research students have traditionally been supervised by a maximum of two supervisors, normally members of academic staff. This will still be the case for the majority of postgraduate research programmes.

However, in some special cases, one of these supervisors can be associated with an external organisation such as another academic institution or a company. This could potentially lead to a situation where a student does not either receive the full benefits of the supervisory team due to one supervisor being off campus for most of the time or, to fill this gap, an informal on-campus third supervisor is used who subsequently does not receive any formal credit for their involvement in the completion of a successful postgraduate research project. Therefore, the Postgraduate Studies Committee (PSC) agreed that, in line with many other academic institutions, there are special circumstances in which it would be beneficial to have a third supervisor associated with the supervision of a postgraduate researcher. These include:

- extenuating circumstances associated with the environment in which a student may be working as defined by the University's "Higher Risk Postgraduate Research Programme Guidelines;
- postgraduate research students involved in research work with external organisations and requiring specialist academic/company input, such as EngD students;
- the need to supplement a supervisory team with specialist external "Approved Supervisor" knowledge; and/or
- any other circumstances deemed as appropriate by the Chair of PSC or their nominated representative.

With regard to postgraduate research students in the above categories, they would normally be deemed to be potentially at risk. As a consequence of this, PSC has also agreed that there will be a requirement for the School(s)/Institute(s) and other organisations involved to follow the Higher Risk Postgraduate Research Programme Guidelines. This will ensure that the student's research environment is commensurate with what is expected for someone carrying out a fully supported postgraduate research project at this University. This would include but is not limited to an evaluation of the research facilities, the internal and/or external supervisor capabilities (where necessary) and the student's potential to engage and participate in the wider postgraduate research student community. Any Higher Risk Postgraduate Research Programmes assessments should accompany the relevant 'Nomination of Supervisor' or 'Approved Supervisor' forms. The Chair of PSC or their nominated representative can insist on such an assessment for **any** postgraduate research programme.

It is expected that the School(s)/Institute(s) will identify whether or not there is a need for such an assessment and complete the relevant paperwork if required. The final approval of such an assessment will rest with the Chair of PSC or their nominated representative.

It is also the intention of these new guidelines to provide a mechanism through which academic colleagues can develop joint research projects with other Schools, University campuses or external organisations by engaging with potential partners in a more formal way, potentially leading to more valuable and worthwhile research opportunities.