

International good practice in doctoral supervision: A series of virtual workshops by Vitae on behalf of RANNIS

Session 1: The global context of doctoral supervision

23 September 2022, 0900-1100 GMT

This interactive session will set the scene for the programme. Participants will explore the standards of good research supervision within the global context and consider the ethics of researcher supervision. The session will focus on the importance of, and issues that might arise from, managing across cultures. This is a key factor in supervisory support given the range of nationalities and backgrounds represented in the PhD community in Iceland. The session will include a mixture of delivery, discussion and activity to enhance our shared understanding.

Session 2: Managing expectations on both sides of the supervisory relationship

30 September 2022, 0900-1000 GMT

Following on from the exploration of cultural differences in session 1, this session will focus on how to set and meet expectations on both sides of the supervisory relationship. As well as expectations around work and professional relationships, consideration will be given to enculturation into the exploratory nature of the research environment. The session will look at the characteristics of an effective supervisor and also the changing needs of a PhD candidate. It will address how setting clear expectations at the start of the relationship can positively impact the research outcomes.

Session 3: Managing the progress of the research:

7 October 2022, 0900-1000 GMT

In addition to managing the researcher, it is vital to manage the research effectively. This session will build on the previous expectation management session by exploring tools and techniques with which supervisors can support their students to develop their own research project management skills. Consideration will be given to learning styles and how these might impact of PhD candidate's progression. Tools for time and workload management, as well as project delivery techniques that avoid procrastination, will be explored.

Session 4: Helping researchers take control of their professional development

3 February 2023, 0900-1100 GMT

The supervisor is ideally placed to support their PhD candidates in planning for their future careers. As the traditional paths for academics are increasingly blurred, this session will facilitate a discussion around how best to support PhD candidates in developing the skills that will serve them throughout their future careers, as well as helping them to complete their PhD. Coaching conversations will be introduced as a framework for helping others to make progress in life and work. Space will be given to share advice, ideas, good practice and practical tips for helping supervisees to take control of their own careers.

Session 5: Managing the person: supporting good Mental health and wellbeing

10 February 2023, 0900-1100 GMT

The importance of mental health and wellbeing among researchers is increasingly recognised as an issue which, if not managed effectively, can be hugely detrimental to the individual, the research and the institution. This session will provide participants with an understanding of the issue, the rationale for addressing it directly, and the practical tools they will need to support the mental health and wellbeing of their team.

Session 6: Trouble shooting – what might go wrong and how to manage it

17 February 2023, 0900-1100 GMT

In this final session we will pull together the various elements of managing researchers introduced across the workshop to focus on how to deal with problems that might arise. This will include, but is not limited to identifying, addressing and resolving conflict; underperformance; and changing circumstances. You will be invited to bring any issues you have faced (suitably anonymised) for discussion and review with the group, to assist all attendees in addressing such issues in the future.

Biographies

Dr Jen Allanson (Trainer)

Jen is a professional coach and researcher developer. Since 2005 she has been designing, developing and delivering professional skills training to researchers from around the world. She entered higher education as a mature student via an access course in Engineering,

completing a BSc and PhD in Computer Science and in 1999 became the first full-time female lecturer in Computer Science at Lancaster University. She subsequently moved to a senior lectureship in The School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), then held an honorary lectureship in The School of Psychology at LJMU, before becoming a trainer.

Tori Helmer (Vitae host)

Tori is Vitae's Learning and Development Manager, responsible for the delivery of Vitae's researcher development training programmes. She has over ten years of local, national and international experience in programme and project management, customer service, stakeholder relations and leadership in the education sector. Her portfolio of experience extends globally and includes projects with the Italian Ministry of Higher Education (MIUR), and universities such as the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in the UK and California State and SUNY in the USA.