# Quick Guide

## To Supervising Postgraduate Research Students (Moodle Resource)

# Why it matters...

High quality supervision is a key factor in postgraduate research student progress, timely submission, success and satisfaction. It is important that all of our supervisors of postgraduate research (PGR) students are engaged with current best practice and able to reflect on their own supervisory practice, ensuring excellence in supervision.

The University of Essex greatly values the contribution made by PGR students to the intellectual life of the University. Doctoral students play a very important role in enhancing the research environment at the University, both in specific Departments and more widely within and across Faculties.

To ensure that we continue to properly support our research students, we have developed an online resource that aims to **set expectations** for all supervisors and to **support** our supervisor development programme. It is informed by the [UK Council for Graduate Education Good Supervisory Practise Framework](#) and the [Vitae Supervising a Doctorate Guide](#) and recognises that research supervision is a complex activity in which supervisors are having to respond to the growth, diversification, and welfare of the PGR student population set in a changing world of work.

# How it works

Whether you are new to supervision, new to supervising at Essex, or an experienced supervisor, this resource aims to provide you with the guidance and up-to-date information you need for the development of good supervisory practice here at the University of Essex.

## Getting started

You can access the Moodle resource by following this link:

[Supervising Postgraduate Research Students](#)

On the homepage you will find links to external and Essex-specific supervisory guidance and framework documents, and within all sections FAQs provide further guidance specific to the Essex context. The first section provides an overview of the resource and explains how it can be used.

The whole resource is designed with three levels of support:

- A self-diagnostic quiz to complete
- In-depth information tracking the whole PGR lifecycle
- Reflecting upon and enhancing practice

**Self-diagnostic quiz**

First, completing this quiz will give you a quick picture of your capabilities and competencies. You can download the feedback which will guide you to areas within the resource where you need to build your confidence. You can retake the quiz at any point to see how your confidence and skills increase over time.

**Tracking the PGR lifecycle**

With the self-assessment completed, you can now access in-depth information that tracks the whole PGR journey from attracting postgraduate researchers through to supporting them in the final stages of their research – a resource you can dip into and consult at any time. There is also a separate section with guidance on supervising PGRs with disabilities.

**Reflecting upon and enhancing practice**

There are case studies and ideas for continuing professional development with an emphasis on self-reflection to tailor to your own goals and career path. Keeping a reflective journal is encouraged and can be stored or downloaded on the Moodle platform for your own private record.

This resource complements provisions within your own departments and faculties as well as opportunities for live/face-to-face supervisor training through HR Organiser. Log in and search for supervisor training.

Contact Develop@essex.ac.uk for further support. For more Quick Guides go to the webpage.