Changes to University Policy on Provision of Supervision and Academic Progression for Postgraduate Research Students

From September 2016 we are implementing improvements to our Policy around Postgraduate Research (PGR) supervision and academic progression. The changes will reinforce the guarantees we make regarding what you can expect from your supervisions, and the oversight we provide to guide your academic progress. The changes are outlined below.

Supervisions

Supervisors have specific responsibilities to their students, including a minimum frequency of scheduled meetings and provision of appropriate academic and personal guidance, feedback and assessment. More information on the expectations for both student and supervisor can be found in our Policy on Research Degrees.

As a PGR student you will receive a minimum of two Formal Supervisions per quarter. Formal Supervisions are provided in addition to the appropriate level of ongoing supervision and oversight, and should include a presentation and review of research materials, with feedback and guidance from the supervisor, together with a review of any training and development needs to assist with your ongoing research.

All of your Formal Supervisions will be recorded in an online document electronically signed by both you and your supervisor. This will provide you with transparency, accountability, and clarity of research direction.

Thesis Advisory Panel Meetings

Your Thesis Advisory Panel (TAP), made up of your supervisor(s) and at least one other member of staff with the appropriate academic or research background. TAP meetings occur at least every 6 months, and provide the first level of academic oversight for PGR students, ensuring that your progress is relevant and timely, that your supervision and training are appropriate, and your research aims are both achievable and achieved.
All of your TAP meetings will be recorded in an online document electronically signed by you, your supervisor and the other TAP member(s). Increasing transparency and clarity of academic guidance will assist you in maintaining your academic progression and reaching your research goals.

**Academic Progression**

During your higher degree studies, academic progression is evaluated at formal progression points.

For all students registering on or after 1st September 2016 our existing single academic progression point (implemented prior to 24 months post-registration) will be replaced by two annual progression points at the end of year 1 and the end of year 2 (and end of year 3 for four year programmes – all timings assume full-time study). You will be told by your Department at the beginning of your programme, with details in the Departmental Handbook, what you will need to submit and when, in order to progress into second and third (and fourth if appropriate) years of study.

Moving to annual progression points will ensure that you are given the most appropriate academic evaluation by your Department, providing the best opportunity to assist you in completing your research degree to the highest standards.

Annual Progression will also be recorded online, offering a clear record of academic achievements and expectations for both you and your supervisor.

*For further information regarding these changes please contact the Department to which you are applying.*