

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

THE SUPERVISOR AND THE STUDENT:

1. Will establish agreed roles and clear processes to be maintained by both parties. In the case of joint supervision everyone's role needs to be clarified.
2. Will meet regularly and as frequently as is reasonable to ensure steady progress towards the completion of the proposal, dissertation and thesis.
3. Will keep appointments, be punctual and respond timeously to messages.
4. Will keep one another informed of any planned vacations or absences as well as changes in his or her personal circumstances that might impact on the work schedule. Unplanned absences or delays should be discussed as soon as possible and arrangements should be made to catch up lost time.
5. Will ensure the research on animal or human subjects is conducted according to the procedures and the requirements of the relevant Ethics committee.
6. Will together complete progress reports on the research project, as requested by Faculty Research Innovation Committee and Higher Degrees Unit.

<p>THE SUPERVISOR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertakes to provide guidance for the student's research project in relation to the topic, the design and scope of the project, the relevant literature and information sources, research methods and techniques and methods of data analysis. 2. Ensuring that the dissertation/thesis proposal is within his/her field of expertise. 3. Has a responsibility to be accessible to the student. 4. Will be prepared for meetings with the student. This includes being up to date on the latest work in his/her area of expertise. 5. Will expect written work as jointly agreed, and will return that work with constructive criticism within a timeframe (a suggestion of 2-4 weeks) jointly agreed at the outset of the research. 6. Will provide advice that can help the student to improve his/her writing. This may include referrals for language training and academic writing. The supervisor will provide guidance on technical aspects of writing such as referencing as well as on discipline specific requirements. Detailed correction of drafts and instruction in aspects of language and style are not the responsibility of the supervisor. 7. Will support the student in the production of a research project, dissertation or thesis. Facilitating submission to the Faculty Research Innovation Committee & HDC. 8. Provision should be allowed for adequate, mutually respectful, discussion around recommendations made. 9. Facilitating the submission of the proposal via the Faculty Research Innovation Committee to HDC within six months after registration. 10. Will assist with the construction of a written time schedule which outlines the expected completion dates of successive stages of the work, within the time frame as stipulated in the Continuation of Studies policy. Keeping comprehensive records of all formal meetings. These records should include dates, actions agreed upon and deadlines set, for reporting purposes and accountability. 11. Will ensure the student has the opportunity to present work at postgraduate/ staff seminars/ national / international conferences as appropriate. 12. Will assist with the publication of research articles as appropriate. 13. Will ensure that the student is made aware in writing of the inadequacy of progress and/or of any work where the standard is below par. Acceptability will be according to criteria previously supplied to the student. 14. Has a duty to refuse to allow the submission of sub-standard work for examination, regardless of the circumstances. If the student chooses to submit without the consent of the supervisor, then this should be clearly recorded and the appropriate procedures followed. 15. Will discuss the ownership of research conducted by the student in accordance with the University guidelines and rules on intellectual property, co-authorship and copyright. 16. Will ensure that the research is conducted in accordance with the University's policy on plagiarism. Before the Examination Panel is approved at HDC the Supervisor will run a Turnitin report to ensure that the dissertation/ thesis has not been plagiarized, a copy of this report will be submitted to HDC upon requesting approval of the Examination Panel. 17. Ensuring the submission of a progress report to the Higher Degrees Unit at the end of the second VUT semester (June) and at the end of the fourth VUT term (year-end/November). 18. Assist in appointing an Examination Panel to access the dissertation/thesis. 	<p>THE STUDENT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The thesis/dissertation produced is first and foremost an original work, albeit achieved with the benefit of advice and guidance from the supervisor/promoter. 2. Undertakes to work independently under the guidance of the supervisor. This includes reading widely to ensure that the literature pertinent to his/her chosen topic has been identified and consulted. Is obliged to make appointments to see the supervisor and will arrange meeting times well in advance. Supervisors are contacted should additional meetings be considered necessary. 3. Will think carefully about how to derive maximum benefit from these contact sessions by planning what he/she wants in these sessions. 4. Should submit written work for discussion with the supervisor well in advance of a scheduled meeting. The kind and frequency of written work should be agreed with the supervisor at the outset of the research. 5. Undertakes to submit written work that is relatively free of basic spelling mistakes, incorrect punctuation and grammatical errors. Responsibility for the accuracy of language, the overall structure and coherence of the final research proposal, dissertation or thesis rest with the student. 6. Undertakes to heed the advice given by the supervisor and engage in discussion around suggestions made. Ultimately the student has to take responsibility for the quality and presentation of the work. 7. Should strive, within reasonable bounds, to maintain focus on his/her research area and to work in the agreed time schedule. 8. Will prepare material for presentations at seminars and conferences. 9. Undertakes to submit papers for publication. 10. Agrees to honor agreements about ownership of the research and in accordance with the University's guidelines and rules in relation to co-authorship, copyright and intellectual property. 11. Will ensure that the work contains no instances of plagiarism and that all citations are properly referenced and that the list of references is accurate, complete and consistent. 12. Agrees to work in accordance with the criteria of acceptability as supplied by the supervisor. 13. Undertakes not to place the supervisor under pressure to submit work for examination until the supervisor is satisfied that it has reached an acceptable level of quality. 14. Proof of language editing by an accredited language editor is handed in when the dissertation/thesis is submitted for examination. 15. An electronic copy of the dissertation/thesis is submitted to the Higher Degrees Unit to be loaded on the Electronic Dissertation / Thesis system of the NRF. 16. A progress report is submitted within the agreed timeframes to the Higher Degrees Unit. 	<p>I confirm that I have read and understood this statement and agree to be guided by its principles.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Name of student:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Student's signature</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Name of Supervisor</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Supervisor's signature</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Name of Co-supervisor</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Co-supervisor's signature</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Degree:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Faculty:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>_____</p>
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