

FACTSHEET: SUPERVISING CROSS-CULTURAL HDR STUDENTS

Many postgraduate students at Avondale come from a cross-cultural background. This Factsheet provides postgraduate supervisors with ideas to support their supervision of cross-cultural postgraduate students.

The following ideas are provided as suggestions for how to supervise cross-cultural students in ways that facilitate satisfying and successful student learning experiences.

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| Communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language skills may be an issue for international HDR students • It is highly likely that students will need assistance in developing their academic writing skills • Students may be unfamiliar with culture-specific conventions for asking advice, disagreeing, making requests or negotiating issues around their supervision. • Students may need assistance with computer skills tailored for post-graduate study e.g. endnote. |
| Methodology | It is possible that students will need to be methodologically up-skilled e.g. qualitative and quantitative methods |
| Supervision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving co-supervisors in meetings maximises the usefulness of meetings to all parties and avoids conflicting advice to the candidate. • Encouraging the candidate do most of the talking during meetings increases their independence and encourages them to take charge of their own research. • Clarifying understanding as well as immediate feedback before a meeting ends ensures that both supervisor and candidate have a clear understanding of what was decided and what action needs to be taken. • Supervisory meetings provide a forum for coaching/mentoring the candidate on how to think critically, give and accept feedback and communicate assertively. • Sensitive issues are best addressed in face-to-face meetings rather than relying on e-mail to deliver negative feedback or bad news. This way, the supervisor can clarify misunderstandings on the spot and provide emotional support, where necessary. |
| Websites | <p>www.crossculturalsupervision.com</p> <p>www.dissertationsupervision.org/.../cross%20cultural%20 %20literature....</p> <p>www.herdsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/conference/1997/cargil01.pdf</p> <p>http://www.mq.edu.au/ltc/altc/cross_cultural_supervision_project/</p> <p>http://www.waikato.ac.nz/.../Supervising International Postgraduates%2..</p> |

References

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