

HDR Supervisor Policy

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1. Purpose

- a. This policy recognises the importance of quality supervision to successful completion of higher degree by research (HDR) candidatures.
- b. It sets out the principles for the selection and registration of supervisors of HDR students.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all HDR candidatures.

3. Types of supervisor

There are three types of supervisor, as set out below. For more information about supervisor responsibilities, refer to the [Charter for HDR Student and Supervisor Responsibilities](#).

Type	Main role
1. Principal Supervisor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Primary supervisory responsibility for the HDR student. b. Maintaining effective communication with the student and with other supervisors.
2. Associate Supervisor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Providing additional supervisory support for the student and additional expertise to the supervisory team, including being involved from the outset in the development of the student's research plan, particularly for multi-disciplinary projects. b. Primary supervisory responsibility on a temporary basis when the Principal Supervisor is unavailable.
3. Adjunct Supervisor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Providing additional expertise to the supervisory team, mainly when extra expertise would be beneficial, but the supervisor is not eligible for a Principal or Associate Supervisor role.

4. Supervisory team requirements

- a. At the commencement and for the duration of their candidature, every HDR student must have a supervisory team comprising one Principal Supervisor and one Associate Supervisor, each of whom must be registered on the Register of HDR Supervisors, except that:
 - i. for students studying a PhD by Prior Published Work or a Higher Doctorate, only a Principal Supervisor is required
 - ii. for students studying under a Cotutelle arrangement, there must be an additional Principal Supervisor from the other institution which is party to the Cotutelle arrangement, and
 - iii. for external students, an Adjunct Supervisor who is resident at or near the place of study, is also required to provide localised advice and support to the student.
- b. A supervisory team may include optional supervisors, as follows:
 - i. one or more additional Associate Supervisors, who must be registered on the Register of HDR Supervisors, and/or
 - ii. one or more Adjunct Supervisors (including Flinders University staff who are Teaching Specialists), who are not required to be on the Register.
- c. At least one Principal or Associate supervisor must be employed by Flinders University or its affiliated institutions at a fraction of 0.5 or greater.
- d. At least one Principal or Associate supervisor must have a successful record of postgraduate supervision.
- e. The Principal Supervisor/s must have relevant knowledge, expertise and interest in the student's research topic.
- f. No supervisor may accept new supervision responsibilities if they are principal supervisor of two or more students who have not submitted by the date of maximum candidature duration as specified in the [Higher Degrees by Research Policy](#), unless approved by the Dean of Graduate Research on the advice of the College HDR Coordinator.
- g. Supervisors must carry out the responsibilities in the [Charter for HDR Student and Supervisor Responsibilities](#).

5. Register of HDR Supervisors

- a. There is a Register of HDR Supervisors, registration on which is required for Principal and Associate supervisors.
- b. To be eligible for registration, a potential supervisor must (unless an exception is approved in special circumstances by the delegated authority):
 - i. hold a doctoral degree, or be approved by the Dean of Graduate Research as having equivalent research experience, and
 - ii. be a member of the academic or research staff of Flinders University (but not a Teaching Specialist) holding a continuing, continuing contingent-funded, or convertible appointment, or a contract appointment of at least 3 years duration, or have been awarded full academic status under the [Academic Status Policy](#), and
 - iii. be active in research or creative work as defined in the [HDR Supervisor Procedures](#), and
 - iv. have completed the HDR Supervisor Development Program and be committed to improving the quality of supervision, as demonstrated by completing a minimum of 15 points from the [HDR Supervisor Development Program](#) every 2 years, or an equivalent contribution to supervisor development.

6. Authorities

Delegate	Authority
Dean of Graduate Research	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Approve supervisors accepting new supervisions under Procedure 4.f.b. Determine special circumstances criteria, and approve special circumstances exceptions under Procedure 5.b.

7. Supporting procedures and documents

Supporting procedures and documents are part of this policy and provide additional detail to give practical effect to the policy principles.

[HDR Supervisor Procedures](#)
[Charter for HDR Student and Supervisor Responsibilities](#)

Related documents:

[Higher Degrees by Research Policy](#) and supporting procedures

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