



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH



INSTITUTE FOR  
ACADEMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

# Postgraduate Research Supervisor Newsletter

## October 2019

This newsletter contains links to events and signposts relevant information and resources for both new and experienced supervisors, to help you to carry out your role and to focus on your continuing professional development as supervisors.

### Events and workshops

All events for supervisors offered by IAD are available to view on our supervisors web pages:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/research-roles/supervisors>

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|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Practical Strategies for... Using a Solution Focused Approach in PhD Supervision</b></p> <p>This workshop will give you powerful conversation tools which can quickly shift conversations from problems and complaints to solutions, and empower PhD students to take more personal responsibility for success. The conversation tools are easy to learn and use, and research has shown that one of the greatest benefits of Solution Focus is in reducing practitioner stress.</p>   | <p>Thursday 14th November 2019,<br/>10:00 – 12:00</p> | <p><a href="https://edin.ac/33LzAHF">https://edin.ac/33LzAHF</a></p> |
| <p><b>PhD Supervision—Coaching Conversations (School of Biological Sciences only)*</b></p> <p>This practical workshop aims to equip you as supervisor with the ability to “coach” your students to enable you to support the development of independent research. Within the workshop we will explore: coaching skills such as active listening and problem reframing, a framework for having coaching conversations to enable problem solving by your students, and research focussed coaching style questions. There will be an opportunity to put these skills into practice and gain feedback on your approach. The skills discussed will also have relevance to the management of research staff and working inside research col-</p> | <p>Thursday 5th December,<br/>13:30—16:30</p>         | <p><a href="https://edin.ac/2W1kjQi">https://edin.ac/2W1kjQi</a></p> |
| <p><b>Gaining Teaching Accreditation for Your PhD Supervision</b></p> <p>This workshop will help you to identify ways of gaining teaching accreditation for the work you do in doctoral supervision. You will find out about Higher Education Fellowship and the Edinburgh Teaching Award.</p>   | <p>Wednesday 7 May,<br/>09:30 - 11:00</p>             | <p><a href="https://edin.ac/33OajfR">https://edin.ac/33OajfR</a></p> |

\* If you are interested in offering a Coaching Conversations workshop in your School please get in touch to discuss.

### Compulsory Supervisor Briefings

All new supervisors are required to attend a supervisor briefing. Continuing supervisors should renew these every five years. These are run by the Colleges and Schools in partnership with IAD. You can find a list of these with dates and booking links here: <http://edin.ac/2zsxyQT>

## UKCGE Research Supervision Recognition Programme

The UK Council for Graduate Education has developed a new **Research Supervision Recognition Programme**. This is a useful professional development toolkit designed to support supervisors as you navigate this increasingly complex and challenging role. The Research Supervision Recognition Programme includes the benchmark of good supervisory practice and provides supervisors with the resources needed to undertake structured self-reflection.

The programme also provides a route to professional recognition of supervisory practice.

Find out more: <https://supervision.ukcge.ac.uk>

We would be interested to hear your thoughts on the framework and how you are using it as this will help us inform the development of support for supervisors at the University. Please get in touch if you have any comments or questions.

## Research Integrity Survey

Vitae in partnership with UK Research Integrity Office have been commissioned by Research England, on behalf of UKRI to undertake a research integrity landscape study considering the effects of incentives in the research system on researcher behaviour in the context of research integrity.

The study involves a large-scale survey, which is currently running until Wednesday 6 November.

They are looking for researchers at all career stages (including PhD candidates) and in all disciplines, who are based in the UK, to participate.

To take part : <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/researchintegritystudy>

## Resources for Supervisors

### Supervising PhDs Blog

An interesting community blog designed to share research outcomes and practical perspectives on PhD supervision. Topics covered have included supervising international students, supporting writing, mental health and graduate students, and co-supervision.

<https://supervisingphds.wordpress.com>

### Supervising a Doctorate—Vitae

Advice and guidance from Vitae on supervising doctoral students from establishing a positive supervisory relationship, to keeping students on track, and finally to supporting them during the final stages of thesis writing and viva. View the resources by registering with your university email address which will give you free access.

<https://www.vitae.ac.uk/doing-research/supervising-a-doctorate>

## Support for Doctoral Students

A reminder of some of the support which you can signpost your doctoral students to as appropriate.

Support for professional and career development, includes workshops on topics such as searching research literature, presenting with ease, managing research data, academic writing, effective collaboration, public engagement and more.

[www.ed.ac.uk/iad/doctoral](http://www.ed.ac.uk/iad/doctoral)

English Language Education support for doctoral students including courses on writing a literature review, and thesis writing. Supervisors can request a place on a course for their student to get priority access.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-teaching>

Support for student wellbeing including online resources to use to manage wellbeing, workshops and individual counselling.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling>

**Contact us** If you have something you would like to add to future newsletters or have any queries, please get in touch.

## IAD Supervisor Support - Contact Details

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