

Ysgol Ddoethurol / Doctoral School
Swyddfa Ymchwil a Menter / Research and Enterprise Office



Bangor University Doctoral School

PGR Induction, 17th January 2017

Professor John Turner

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<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/doctoral-school/>

The Research Degree is changing:



Not just subject specific apprentice model - different types of Doctorate, MPhil and MSc
Research now recognised

Professional Doctorate - training course and project, and those in practice (Law, Eng, Med, SS, Education)

Doctorate by Published Works

Thesis recognised as 'gold standard' by many, but increasing trend in some disciplines for integration of published papers

Research Students are changing:

We recognise trends - increasing in age, number of women, self funded, overseas students, part time, professional doctorates

We respect maturity of the Graduate and your stage career development

Research Degree often coincides with changing point in your lives – establishing long lasting interests, relationships / starting families / already in professional careers and seeking advancement

Important to balance family life

Need to complete in good time

Doctoral degrees have value outside academic life (not just academic careers - must provide more broad professional development training)

PhD students are expected to:



Create and interpret knowledge through original research & scholarship

Work at forefront of discipline

Satisfy peer review and produce work that merits publication

Acquire & understand a substantial body of knowledge at forefront of discipline or in professional practice

Conceptualise design & implement a research project /respond to unforeseen problems

Have a detailed understanding of applicable techniques

And

Demonstrate / teach (in some Schools)

Learn transferable skills such as communication, project management, professional development

Doctoral School Mission

shared by partners (Academic Colleges & Schools, Academic Registry & other University Services, DTPs, DTCs external partners) to facilitate the process of turning doctoral students into excellent researchers and into other careers to:



Provide a stimulating and vibrant research environment promoting cooperation across disciplines

Bring early career and established researchers together

Ensure a critical mass of PGR researchers to prevent isolation

Provide clear administrative structures and processes for students and staff, including a clear PGR status

To organise admissions, and to have transparent regulations and to guarantee quality assurance and processes for monitoring, extensions and appeals

To provide a framework for regulations, codes of practice

To provide training in teaching and transferable skills

To provide enhanced career development opportunities

To enhance opportunities for international partnerships and inter institutional collaborations

Demonstrate research excellence

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Role of the Doctoral Supervisor

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Relationship



Complex like all relationships – needs work – probably get out what you put in

Built on respect and trust

Bound by some rules (UB Regulations & Codes of Practice, HEA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Chapter B11 (Research Degrees))

Develops and changes through time....Mentor, Colleague, Friend

Relationships may differ



You may have applied and been competitively selected for a funded PhD where a concept or even proposal is already well thought out by Supervisor who is an expert in that field

You may have your own idea and have approached a Supervisor as a recognized leader in that field

You may have been allocated a Supervisor having applied to a School or through a course of training

Your relationship will be unique

Supervisor as your *Mentor*



guides you in developing the main research question

helps you identify skills and training needs

helps refine your proposal

provides direction in reading / understanding as you enter a new field

assists over methods ethics and safety

provides a research environment

More than one

Supervisor

Co-Supervisors (different skills / avoid conflicts)

External Supervisors (placements, advisors)

Review Committee (Tutor & Chair, Internal)

Postdocs/research groups

Research Environment



Fellow students & staff

Group/Department/School/College/Doctoral School

Come to work – do not become isolated

Lab/office/library/placement/overseas fieldwork

Talks/seminars/events/coffee room / social life

Training and professional development

It is your Project

Must embody your ideas, interests, passion.....

Your supervisor is busy – has many responsibilities

Your project is the centre of your world but one of many for your supervisor

Take ownership of your project!

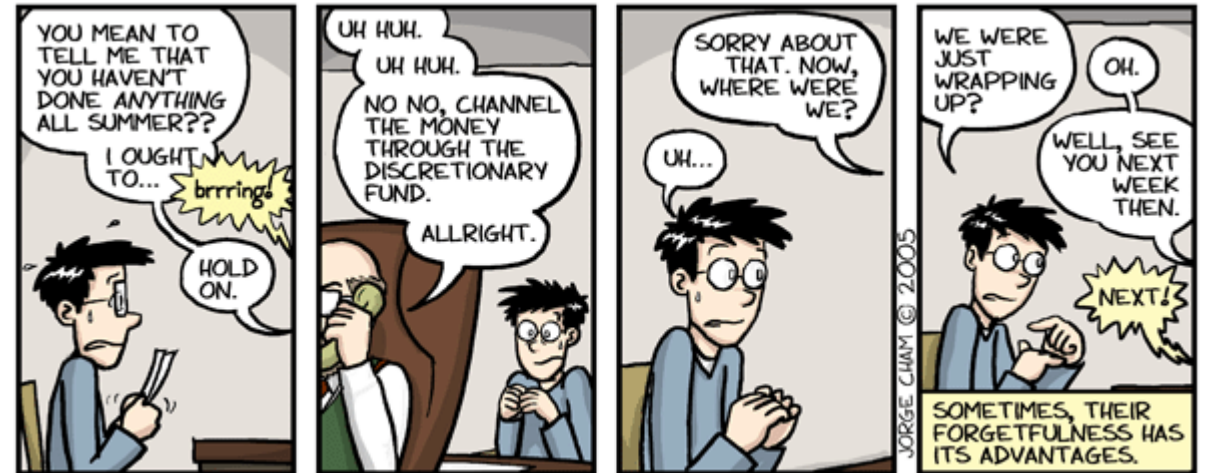


Communication is key!

Meet frequently (we require face to face meetings recorded in *MyBangor* every 2 weeks)

Be prepared (discuss plans, data/findings, review ideas, writing, feedback)

The onus is on you....!



Supervisor as your *Colleague*



Works with you (discussion /lab /field)

Introduces you to colleagues in subject area

Offers opportunities

Write and present work (co-authorship)

Responsibility for activities/ teaching

Supervisor as your Friend



Trust & support

References, opportunities contacts

Sport / social

'Academic families'

Sometimes friends for life – maintain contact academically & socially



"Piled Higher and Deeper" by Jorge Cham
www.phdcomics.com