

Support and development of supervisors for research students

Ingrid Pugh

Assistant Registrar (Research)

University of Brighton

December 2007



University of Brighton

University of Brighton

- 466 students
- 60% part-time, 20% overseas
- Large Professional Doctorate programme
- Subject spread: Arts and Architecture, Management and Information Sciences, Health and Social Sciences, Science and Engineering, Education and Sport



Structures at UoB

- Research Student Divisions
- Research Student Division Leader/Administrator
- Thesis Panel for each student

- Research Support Team/local admin



Supervisory teams

- At least 2 academic staff; 1 lead
- At least 2 completions
- Approved Supervisor Register
- Reviewed at Thesis Outline and each year at Progression Review Panels



Supervisor responsibilities

- Management of the project
- Advice on scholarly debate
- Introduction to information sources
- Help with research techniques
- Introduce candidate to relevant research community
- Make explicit concept of originality and doctoral levels



Supervisor responsibilities 2

- Advice pre-admissions
- Advice on work
- Advice on regulations and processes
- Monitor and evaluate progress
- Regular meetings with records
- IPR/ethics/health and safety advice
- Assessment of training needs



Supervisor workshops

- Research Degree Process Part 1: From application to thesis outline
- Research Degree Process Part 2: Transfer, monitoring and examination
- Supervising your research students
- Professional Doctorate Advisor workshop
- Research Degree supervisors' refresher course



Approved Supervisor Register

- Attendance at workshops **and**
- played a significant role in 2 refereed publications **or** been awarded a research degree **and**
- presented at least 2 papers at a national/international conference **or**
- secured external funding for a research project **or**
- successfully supervised to completion **or**
- actively participated in broader research activities



Approved Supervisor Register

- Approval onto Register by Deans Group
- Reconsidered after 5 years

- Refresher workshop
- Completion rates
- Student feedback



Monitoring and support for supervisors

- Research Student Division system
- Progression Review Panels (PRPs)
- Annual monitoring



Conclusions

- Structures that enable best support and monitoring of supervisors/supervision
- Criteria and an approval process for supervisors
- Training and development to meet the needs of supervisors at different levels of experience

