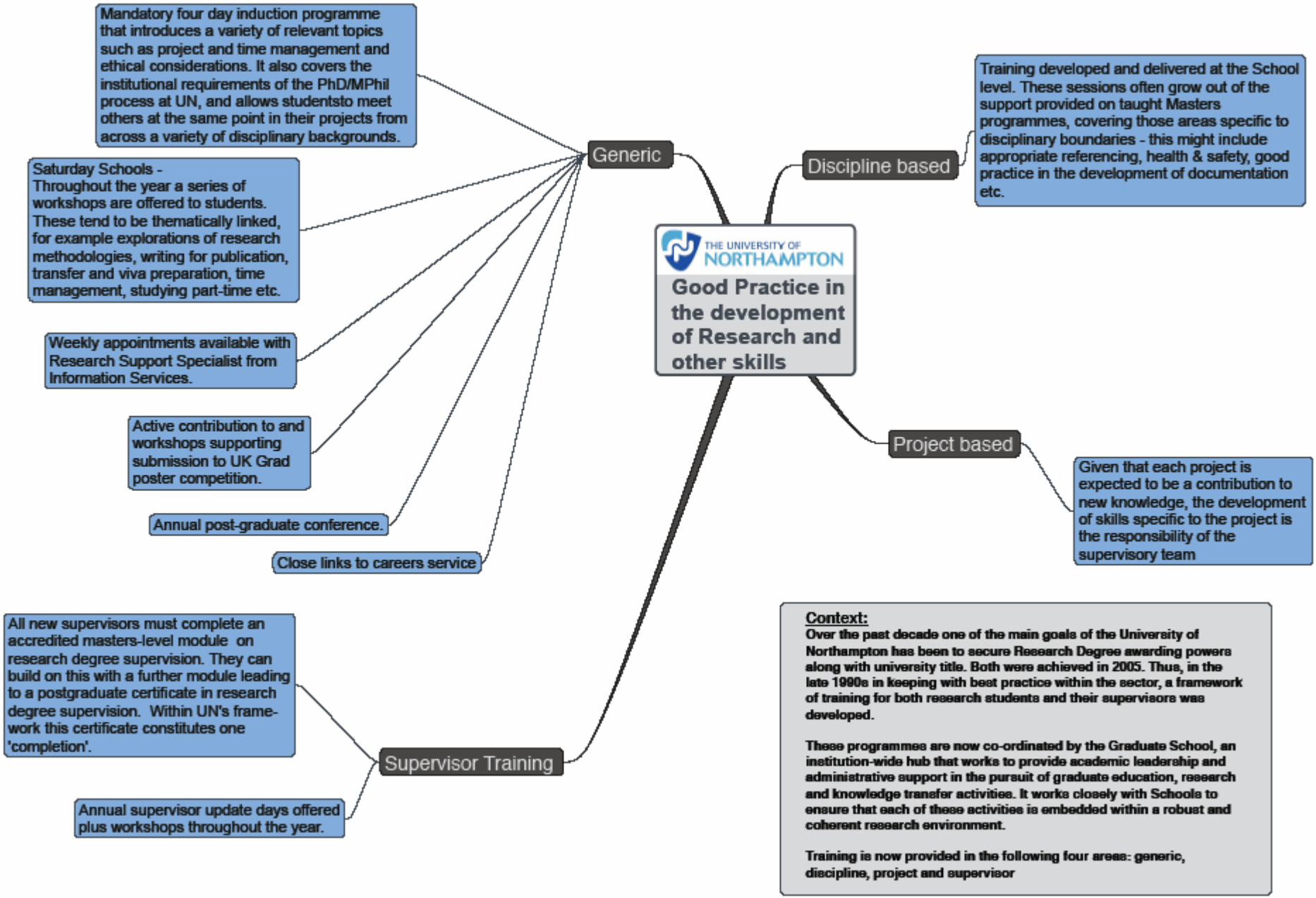
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON
Good Practice in the development of Research and other skills
Generic
Mandatory four day induction programme that introduces a variety of relevant topics such as project and time management and ethical considerations. It also covers the institutional requirements of the PhD/MPhil process at UN, and allows studentsto meet others at the same point in their projects from across a variety of disciplinary backgrounds.
Saturday Schools - Throughout the year a series of workshops are offered to students. These tend to be thematically linked, for example explorations of research methodologies, writing for publication, transfer and viva preparation, time management, studying part-time etc.
Weekly appointments available with Research Support Specialist from Information Services.
Active contribution to and workshops supporting submission to UK Grad poster competition.
Annual post-graduate conference.
Close links to careers service
Discipline based
Training developed and delivered at the School level. These sessions often grow out of the support provided on taught Masters programmes, covering those areas specific to disciplinary boundaries - this might include appropriate referencing, health & safety, good practice in the development of documentation etc.
Project based
Given that each project is expected to be a contribution to new knowledge, the development of skills specific to the project is the responsibility of the supervisory team
Supervisor Training
All new supervisors must complete an accredited masters-level module on research degree supervision. They can build on this with a further module leading to a postgraduate certificate in research degree supervision. Within UN's frame-work this certificate constitutes one 'completion'.
Annual supervisor update days offered plus workshops throughout the year.
Context:
Over the past decade one of the main goals of the University of Northampton has been to secure Research Degree awarding powers along with university title. Both were achieved in 2005. Thus, in the late 1990s in keeping with best practice within the sector, a framework of training for both research students and their supervisors was developed.
These programmes are now co-ordinated by the Graduate School, an institution-wide hub that works to provide academic leadership and administrative support in the pursuit of graduate education, research and knowledge transfer activities. It works closely with Schools to ensure that each of these activities is embedded within a robust and coherent research environment.
Training is now provided in the following four areas: generic, discipline, project and supervisor