



Strengthening Doctoral Supervision



This innovative course provides the structured support needed by academics as they take on the complex and demanding role of doctoral supervision.

The course combines discussions, case studies, research literature, video clips, role plays and numerous other activities and information, both online and face-to-face, to help the new supervisor engage with the practice and process of doctoral supervision in a reflective and informed way.

The course provides the space for novice supervisors to come together with the focused intention of learning about doctoral supervision. It provides the opportunities for collegial support networks to be developed within your university and across the higher education sector. A number of national studies have indicated a need for better support of novice supervisors if postgraduate graduations are to increase. In response to this need, the 'Strengthening Doctoral Supervision' programme provides an intensive and engaging 30 credit short course.

The course is funded by the Dutch government through NUFFIC and will be offered 18 times from 2013 to 2015. The course is run over a single semester, but the online community arising from this process is ongoing and the materials and discussions can be accessed for years to come.

"...help the new supervisor engage with the practice and process of doctoral supervision..."



'All course materials have been licensed under creative commons...'

The course is structured around four themes:

- power relations in supervision,
- the importance of scholarship,
- supervisor practices,
- supervision processes.

The first theme focuses on the relationship between the student and supervisor, the second theme is concerned with the supervisor's own academic identity and the research community to which he or she belongs, the third theme looks at various approaches and models of supervision, including coaching and mentoring, and the final theme considers the supervision of each stage of the research project, including attending to institutional requirements.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
Face-to-Face Workshop Duration: 4 Days	Online Portion Duration: 6 weeks	Face-to-Face Workshop Duration: 3 Days

The facilitators are Dutch and South African and bring a wealth of supervision experience to this course. The materials are of an extremely high standard and include interactive tasks along with accessible theoretical readings. All course materials have been licensed under creative commons whereby institutions are welcome to use the materials for their own future staff development purposes.

Course Offering

This course focuses on doctoral supervision, be it the PhD, D.Ed, D.Tech etc. It is designed for supervisors who have limited or no experience of supervising at this level. Participants should already have or be about to get their own doctoral qualification and therefore be qualified to supervise at this level.

If you would like your institution to be amongst those who benefit from the NUFFIC funded roll out of this course, please contact your university's research office.

All requests for the 'Strengthening Doctoral Supervision' should be supported by the Research Office of your own institution to ensure there is no unnecessary duplication. The Research Office of any public university in South Africa can make enquiries and bookings for this course by emailing: chertl-admin@ru.ac.za

"Doctoral Supervision" is affected by context, such as institutional policies and disciplinary practices, and the course is thus flexibly designed to allow for maximum interaction.