



CONFLICTING ADVICE

Student Perspective 1

I'm part of a group dissertation project. One of the problems I'm facing in my dissertation is that the advice keeps changing. Our two supervisors have differing ideas. On occasion I would get different feedback on the same draft. It wasn't a bad thing. It didn't happen very often so I kind of combined their feedback and sort of do a bit of each and see what they said at the next draft. It wasn't anything too dramatic. It wasn't like something that would really impact the study or my write-up.

Our supervisors have been known to change their advice over time. There were a few times where we would discuss something and the supervisors said we couldn't do that and then come second semester then they would say, "Yeah we can do that now." But it was sort of like we could've prepared for that a lot earlier. When things change that's when it becomes really difficult because then we start getting like a mindset we're going to do this way, we're working towards that method and then when it changes it's like okay now we have to do that process all over again and we've lost time.

More problematic is that other students in my group get different feedback from me. So, say, for example, on one dissertation they say "Oh, this is not needed," but in another it'll be like, "Oh, this is good," you know. I'm very, very thankful that the other students in my group, they're very generous with sharing whatever they have. That's how we found out that our feedback is very inconsistent. Now whenever we get feedback, we just share it as much as we can. But until we started sharing, we were all quite confused because we have a limited level of knowledge of research, so we need to rely on someone who has more experience to guide us.



