



SUPERVISOR WORKLOADS

Coordinator Perspective

The workloads of staff are pretty high. A lot of supervisors, they feel as though they're under the pump with their own research. They have to produce. They have to publish. They have to put it out there. Their jobs depend on it, and they're so stressed out about that, that I think a lot of them do work from home 'cause at least they're not being interrupted by students. That's all very well, but part of their job is also to supervise the students. It's not true for all of them, but I know that certainly for some of them, they really feel the pressure of the need to do research, and they stay away, so they can do their research, and then the students can't access them, and that's just not good. That's what it hinges on, the amount of time that people have available to do supervision, given that so much of their time is taken up with teaching and marking and getting their own research done, and I think there's a lot of ego involved as well now. There are a lot of people who are research-focused and they're resentful actually of students kind of taking up their precious research time. And I know that that's what a lot of students miss out on, I think, is they just don't have the time with their supervisor that is required.

When staff-student ratios are high and there is a shortage of supervisors, it is often me as the coordinator who 'picks up' the additional students. One year I had 10 students where I was both the primary supervisor and the dissertation coordinator, so I was a one-stop shop. That's just not sustainable.

