

Supervisor Criteria

Graduate School Decision Making Process

Summary

This document provides guidance on how the Graduate School determines the number of research degree students a supervisor can supervise. All supervisory teams *must* be approved by the Graduate School. Each UoA research degree contact has access to a list of supervisors and their capacities. This will be updated regularly.

This crib sheet provides an overview of what factors are considered when these decisions are made, however, more in depth requirements can be found in N9 of the [research degree regulations](#) and the [Supervision Criteria](#).

How the Graduate School determine supervisor capacity

The *maximum* amount of research degree students a supervisor can have is normally nine (pro rata for staff on fractional contracts, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number), with no more than six of those at doctoral level (PhD and professional doctorate). Only very experienced supervisors will be permitted to supervise the maximum number of students specified here (*N9.10 – research degree regulations*).

The general rule of thumb in determining individual supervisor capacity is as follows:

Rationale behind the number of students a supervisor is eligible to have	Number of students a supervisor is eligible to have
If a supervisor has no doctoral completions and has not supervised for more than 2 years	1
If a supervisor has no doctoral completions but has supervised more than 2 years	2
If a supervisor has one doctoral completion	3
If a supervisor has two doctoral completions	4
If a supervisor has three, or more , doctoral completions	6

It is important to note that a judgement is made by the Graduate School and Chair of the GSBoS, with the above rationale in mind, when determining supervisory capacity. This paperwork gives an indicator as to some of the criterion considered when making this judgement.
