

Working on the Relationship with your Supervisor(s)

There are very few general things that can be said about supervisors and supervisees, in particular in so short a document. What we provide here is a series of questions for you to *explore* your relationship with your supervisors - being aware of what is the case is a good foundation to develop the relationship. Further below you also find a link to an extensive presentation and information on who to talk to if you have problems.

Questions to ask yourself

1. Work through the [Expectations in supervision questionnaire](#) (PDF file) to find out what your expectations are.
2. Have another look at the questionnaire. What number would your supervisor tick on each one? (Refer to your joint supervisors or your main supervisor, depending on your supervision model). If you don't know what your supervisors would tick, how can you find out?
3. In your opinion: what are their strengths?
4. Where could they improve a bit? How realistic is such an improvement?
5. What are your strengths as a supervisee?
6. Where could you improve a bit?
7. What does your supervisor's academic schedule look like? When are they busy, away, available? What are they busy with - teaching, working on administrative projects, correcting exam papers, going to conferences?
8. Against this backdrop: what can you do to make sure that you have a good relationship with your supervisor?

If you are at a loss as to what you can actively do to work on your relationship

See this full presentation from one of our sessions: [Managing your supervisor\(s\)](#)

Who to talk to if you have problems

In case you should have serious concerns about your supervision, the first person to talk to about this would be your supervisor(s). Within your department, you can talk to your PhD programme director or Head of Department. If you feel your situation absolutely needs to be discussed outside the department, you can contact the Dean of Graduate studies, Dr. Julian Fulbrook and the Research Degrees office <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/researchStudents/>. If you are very upset or feeling helpless about your situation, you might also want to consider talking to the student counselling services <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/studentCounsellingService/>.