

Welcome to
**GRAD-
YOUR-
LUNCH**

Starting off (or
continuing)
strong with
your
supervisor



Place is important



UBC Point Grey Campus (Vancouver) sits on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) People.

Musqueam post artist: Brent Sparrow Jr



1. Welcome & confidentiality agreement
2. Learning outcomes:
 - Recognize the student & supervisor have mutual responsibilities and expectations
 - Understand resources you can access to help things go well, and if they ever get rocky
 - Know who to contact if you want assistance



Graduate supervision at UBC

- The vast majority (85%) of graduate students at UBC are satisfied with their supervision (data from the 2016 Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey).
- A healthy, productive supervisory relationship results not only in a successful academic program and outcomes, but also contributes to students' wellbeing and to supervisors' teaching and research excellence.
- G+PS Seven Principles of Excellent Graduate Supervision at UBC.



Role of the supervisor

The key person in your graduate degree program

Supervisor responsibilities:

- Assist their student in planning their research program, setting a time frame and adhering as much as possible to the schedule
- Demonstrate commitment to their student's research and educational program, and offer respectful support, constructive criticism, and consistent encouragement
- Clearly communicate expectations, and provide reasonably timely feedback
- Chair of your supervisory committee



Role of the student

Student responsibilities:

- Take responsibility and initiative for success in their program
- Develop (with their supervisor) a program plan and timeline
- Instigate regular meetings with their supervisor
- Instigate committee meetings **at least** once per year (complete and submit committee meeting report form)
- Read safety manual, and attend training courses



Examples of differing assumptions

Supervisor Assumptions	Student Assumptions
Students will take a critical approach to the review of data and studies	Inappropriate to criticize experts and speak out or offer ideas
Student will have solid research skills	Supervisors will teach research skills
Student aware of deadlines and milestones	Supervisor will manage/inform re milestones & deadlines
Student has confidence with data collection and presentation	Supervisor will provide guidance around data parameters
Student will present the work they've been doing	Student will not present material until the supervisor requests



Topics to discuss with your supervisor

- Details of the **student agreement letter**
- Courses (if applicable)
- Stipend (as GRA / GTA or other)
- Resources required for research
- Career aspirations
- Opportunities for teaching and professional development
- Publications and authorship, ownership of data
- Opportunities to present at conferences
- **Clarify expectations**
 - frequency and meeting structure (agenda)
 - research safety plan and issues
 - work hours, vacation
 - feedback on submitted work
 - length of program



Resources to help the relationship go well

- **Open and regular communication**
- **The G+PS Expectations document**
- **Regular meetings**
 - Note: regularity may change over time
- **Clear asks:**
 - Do you want to graduate in a specific timeframe?
 - Do you need time away for an important family event?
 - If you're struggling with an aspect of your work, share it! Your supervisor should be able to respond with guidance (e.g. dedicated time to discuss, suggesting a course, someone in your lab to assist)



Resources when the relationship could be going better

-Consider what your ideal outcome/change is (more regular meetings? Earlier feedback on your work? An extension on your funding past the 2 years (masters)/4 years (PhD))?

----*Others are best equipped to assist when you're clear about what you want*

-Start close to the source whenever possible (*talk to your supervisor about it*)

-Consider re-visiting the expectations document with your supervisor

-Consult a third party (Erica, Shannon, G+PS, Hisham)

-Seek support from committee member(s)



What is never ok in a supervisory relationship

- Not meeting minimum funding requirements
 - (\$18.2k/year for 2 years for masters, \$22k/year for 4 years for PhD)
- Discrimination
- Any form of harassment
- Retaliation

We hope you never encounter any of these but please talk to us if you do so we can assist.





THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Forestry

Thank you & time for questions

Next Grad Your Lunch events:

October 19: Timelines & deadlines for research-based programs

November 16: Mental health & well-being

<https://forestry.ubc.ca/programs/graduate/>

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