New Student Questionnaire:

Each student has their own goals, reasons for pursuing a PhD, and vision of what their degree will look like. Please take a few minutes to help me better understand yours!

1: What are your current career aims?

2: What do you consider a “successful PhD?”

3: What type of work do you think goes into a PhD? What type of work do you consider to be most crucial to your long-term ambitions?

4: What kind of working hours do you expect, both in terms of time devoted to different aspects of the program (course work, research, TAing, etc) and when those hours are worked?

5: Which aspects of a PhD do you expect to be the most demanding? Where do you think you have the most room to grow?

6: What aspects of a PhD are you most looking forward to? What do you see as being your greatest strengths?

7: What do you expect from me, as your mentor?

8: If problems arise in our mentorship relationship, how do you think we should resolve them?

9: What is your proposed communication plan (meeting frequency and location; email or basecamp for questions; expected response times; are messages outside of work hours acceptable? Is texting acceptable, and if so, when?)

10: Confidentiality: Any sensitive issues that we discuss will be held in the strictest of confidence. Please list any issues that are off-limits for discussion:

11: What strategies do you have for maintaining your health and wellness? Where do you anticipate needing support in this domain?

12: I aim to foster an equitable and inclusive lab environment. Do you have any suggestions for practices that could help achieve this goal?

13: Do you have any general questions about graduate school or academic culture?

14: Do you have any access needs that you would like me to be aware of? Please note that: (1) you shouldn’t feel pressured to share any of the reasons why you have these needs, and (2) it’s always a good idea to register with accessibility services if you require specific accommodations.

Expectations of Research Supervision

Supervisors and graduate students often have differing supervision expectations. The supervisor and student should complete this scale independently and then compare their responses. Circle a number depending on whether you think the responsibility lies more with the supervisor or the student (e.g., 1 for fully supervisor's responsibility and 5 for fully student's responsibility). If you believe the responsibility should be jointly managed through conversation, circle a 3.

Supervisor		**Student**
It is the supervisor's responsibility to select research topics.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for selecting their own topics.
The supervisor should decide which theoretical framework and/or methodology is most appropriate.	1 2 3 4 5	The students should decide which theoretical framework and/or methodology they wish to use.
The supervisor should dictate the appropriate analysis plan to the student.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should propose analytical plans.
The supervisor is responsible for interpreting and framing results.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for interpreting and framing results.
The supervisor is responsible for the initial drafting of joint publications.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for the initial drafting of joint publications.
The supervisor is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the literature relevant to the student's research topic.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the literature relevant to their research topic.
The supervisor should develop an appropriate timeline for research projects and hold the student to it.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should develop their own timelines for research projects and report their progress regularly.
It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that the student is aware of opportunities and their deadlines (e.g., training grants, and conferences).	1 2 3 4 5	It is the student's responsibility to be aware of opportunities and their deadlines (e.g., training grants, conferences) and notify the supervisor when they intend to apply with sufficient notice.
The supervisor should ensure that the student has access to the resources and facilities that they need.	1 2 3 4 5	It is the student's responsibility to locate and access all necessary resources and facilities.

Supervisor		**Student**
It is the supervisor's responsibility to advise the student of all relevant policies, procedures, and requirements of their program.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for being familiar with the relevant policies, procedures, and requirements of their program.
The supervisor is responsible for setting appropriate timelines for program requirements and ensuring that the student meets them.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for setting appropriate timelines for program requirements and ensuring they meet them.
It's up to the supervisor to build an appropriate professional relationship with the student.	1 2 3 4 5	It is the student's responsibility to manage the relationship with their supervisor.
It's up to the supervisor to manage working relationships between students in their lab	1 2 3 4 5	It's up to students in the lab to manage their own working relationships
The supervisor should insist on regular meetings with the student.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should decide when they want to meet.
The supervisor should regularly check that the student is working consistently and on track.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should work independently and not have to account for how and where time is spent.
It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that the dissertation is finished by the required submission date.	1 2 3 4 5	It is up to the student to finish within the allocated timeframe.
The supervisor should assist in the editing and presentation of the dissertation.	1 2 3 4 5	The writing of the dissertation should only be the student's own work, and they must take full responsibility for its presentation.
The supervisor is responsible for deciding when the dissertation can be submitted for examination.	1 2 3 4 5	The student should decide when they are ready to submit the dissertation for examination.
The supervisor is responsible for ensuring the student maintains a healthy work-life balance.	1 2 3 4 5	The student is responsible for maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

Table adapted from Supervising PhD Students, Kearns and Finn, 2017