

**STUDENT
ASSIST**

A DEPARTMENT OF THE CURTIN STUDENT GUILD

IF THINGS GO WRONG

Dr Andrew Cameron
Student Assist Officer



**CURTIN
STUDENT
GUILD**

Students and Supervisors

- Your relationship with your supervisor(s) is the most important relationship during your postgraduate degree.
- A poor relationship can lead to delays in the project or even failure to complete.
- A positive and productive relationship can mean a successful and stress-free project.

Best practice techniques

- Prepare an agenda for each meeting (informal or formal).
- Keep notes after every meeting – send to supervisor.
- Be open and honest.
- Identify delays/barriers as they happen.
- Establish expectations early.

Establishing expectations

- What are the roles of your different supervisors?
- What is the timeline for your project?
- What will your workload be?
- Feedback from supervisors – timeframe, how much?
- Frequency of meetings
- Academic integrity – ensure that you are aware of Curtin's guidelines
- Co-authorship – agreement should be established early between student and supervisor concerning co-authorship of publications.
- Review these expectations throughout the project – they will change over time.

What can go wrong?

Issues encountered in the past have included:

- Different expectations of project direction (“research drift”)
- Supervisor or student doesn’t attend meetings
- Co-authorship disputes
- Clash of expectations
- Disagreement over methodology/findings
- Personal differences
- General lack of support
- Supervisor leaves Curtin

What to do if things go wrong?

- Clearly identify the nature of the problem
- Define your expectation for a resolution
- Be prepared to compromise
- Keep accurate records, maintain a paper trail

- **Stay focused on your study**

Raising concerns

- Supervisor
- Chairperson of Thesis Committee

- Graduate Research School

- Speak to a **Student Assist Officer** – 9266 2900 or student.assist@guild.curtin.edu.au

Complaints

If you believe your supervisor has breached Curtin's Code of Conduct or has treated you unfairly, please contact:

Student Assist

Building 106F

9266 2900

student.assist@guild.curtin.edu.au

Integrity and Standards Unit

9266 9184

complaints@curtin.edu.au



Support Services

There is a wide range of support services available to Curtin students, including:

Student Assist

Building 106F

9266 2900

student.assist@guild.curtin.edu.au

Student Wellbeing Advisory Services

9266 2662 or 1800 244 043

Building 102, Curtin Connect

Counselling services

Level 2, Building 109

9266 7850

Safer Community Team

9266 4444

Crisis Support

Crisis Care 1800 199 008

Lifeline 13 11 14

Qlife 1800 184 527

1800 Respect

1800 737 732

