Recognised Supervisors

# Introduction

* 1. [The Code of Practice for Supervision and Monitoring Progress of Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs)](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/registry/legislation/documents/public/cohort-legislation-2023-24/cop-supervision-monitoring-progress-postgraduate-researchers-23-24.pdf) requires all PGRs to be provided with a lead supervisor, academic supervisory support and a mentor, and for each member of the supervisory team normally to be a member of University teaching or research staff.
	2. Academic staff in collaborative organisations, who meet certain criteria, may be awarded the title of Recognised Supervisor (RS) of the University. RS are able to supervise postgraduate researchers registered at the University as the lead supervisor\*\*. This may also be extended to other “external” supervisors, for example, in industry.

\*\*Note: Postgraduate Researchers holding a Tier 4 Student Visa

In order to ensure compliance with the University’s Tier 4 Highly Trusted Sponsor License, it is not possible for individuals not employed by the University (including honorary members of staff, recognised supervisors or Emeritus Professors) to be appointed as a lead supervisor for a postgraduate researcher holding a Tier 4 Student Visa, but they may be appointed as a co- supervisor.

* 1. Those staff who are recommended for the award of the title of RS must have appropriate qualifications and/or relevant experience. This is to ensure that the supervision is of a standard compatible and comparable with equivalent University supervision, and that it is informed by scholarship and research.
	2. The process for recognising this is through the award of the title of Recognised Supervisor of the University (RS), which is provided for in [University Regulation 3.10](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/registry/legislation/documents/public/cohort-legislation-2023-24/regulations-23-24-section-3.pdf)
	3. RS are employees of the collaborative organisation and not the University, and are therefore subject to the relevant Human Resources, health and safety, child protection requirements, etc. of the collaborative organisation.

# Criteria for the Award of the Title of Recognised Supervisor

A potential RS should:

* hold a research degree at the same level as, or higher than, the degree being supervised or have appropriate equivalent experience or professional qualifications or status
* be experienced and actively engaged in research
* have demonstrable ability in scholarship or research through published work or appropriate professional experience
* attend an induction briefing, Research Supervisor Training and/or will attend University of Birmingham Research Supervisor Training
* have completed a probationary period in the collaborative or other organisation equivalent to that of the University

# Approval Process

* 1. The award of the title of RS should be sought, using the [Recognised Supervisor Recommendation Form i](http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/collab/docs/rs_recom_form.doc)n advance of the supervisor being linked to a particular candidate. The link to the form is available on the [Collaborative Provision forms and Guidance page.](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/registry/policy/collaborative/formsandguidance.aspx)
	2. The Recommendation Forms will be considered by:
		+ the Collaborative Organisation
		+ the Collaborative Programmes Officer (A senior member of academic staff in the appropriate School in the University will be appointed as a CPO to provide a pivotal link between the collaborative organisation and the University.)
		+ the Head of the University School (or nominee)
		+ the University Research Progress and Awards Sub-Panel
	3. RS will be required to undertake an induction briefing in terms of University Legislation, including Codes of Practice, in particular relating to doctoral researchers, expectations of supervision and related matters.
	4. The RS will be regarded as if they are full members of the appropriate University School. They can join any of HEFi open sessions such as the [HEFi Showcase series](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/hefi/staff-development/hefi-continuing-professional-development.aspx) (the page is updated regularly to list forthcoming courses).

# Period of the Award of the Title of Recognised Supervisor

4.1 University Regulation 3.10 states that the period of the award should be for a defined amount of time, normally reflecting the initial term of the legal agreement with the collaborative organisation. In the event that the agreement is renewed, the award of Recognised Supervisor will normally be extended on consultation with the collaborative organisation

1. Briefing of Recognised Supervisors
	1. A Briefing Guide will be sent to all Recognised Supervisors.
	2. It is the responsibility of the ‘home’ School to provide additional briefing. The School should also ensure that the RS is fully apprised of the University’s Legislation and Codes of Practice, in particular those which relate to postgraduate researchers, who are registered students of the University:

## [University Regulations](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/registry/legislation/regulations.aspx)

University regulations can be found on the [main regulations landing page](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/registry/legislation/regulations/index.aspx).

For any queries on where to find a required Code of Practice, please contact the Collaborative Provision Team.

University Graduate School

The University Graduate School works on behalf of PGRs registered at UoB to ensure the best possible research and educational environment, and further information is available at the [Graduate School homepage](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/studentservices/graduateschool/index.aspx).

# University Facilities available to Recognised Supervisors

6.1 Certain University facilities are available for use by RS, details of which will be communicated on award of the title by the Collaborative Provision Office.