12.2.5.1 Definitions and requirements

Each research student will have a minimum of one main supervisor. He or she will normally be part of a supervisory team. There must always be one clearly identified point of contact for the student.

At least one member of the supervisory team will be currently engaged in research in the relevant discipline(s), so as to ensure that the direction and monitoring of the student's progress is informed by up to date subject knowledge and research developments. Breadth of experience and knowledge across the supervisory team will mean that the student always has access to someone with experience of supporting research student(s) through to successful completion of their programme.

**Principal Supervisor**

A member of the academic staff of the University appointed to supervise a Research Degree student. The Principal Supervisor normally will have relevant research expertise in the proposed study area.

**Second Supervisor**

A member of the academic staff who primarily acts as a mentor to the student. They will provide advice and support independent from the Principal Supervisor as necessary and may also provide pastoral support. The Second Supervisor may also provide appropriate specialist subject expertise in the research area; provide continuity of support when the Principal Supervisor is absent and/or act as a mentor to the Principal Supervisor when the Principal Supervisor does not have the required experience of supporting a Research degree student through to graduation.

**Joint Supervisor**

May be appointed when the research expertise required to support the student spans two or more research areas and therefore the supervision of the student is shared between two members of academic staff. The proportions of supervision are normally agreed at the start of the arrangement, 50:50 ; 70:30 etc.

**Industrial Supervisor**

An individual who is responsible for the local supervision of a student whilst they are on an industrial placement. This individual will not normally be the Principal Supervisor.

12.2.5.2 Appointment of research supervisors

New supervisors should be knowledgeable about supervisory procedures required by the University and by the School and any other related matters deemed appropriate by the Head of School. Experienced supervisors should be briefed about new policies and procedures in a timely and effective way.

Supervision of research degree students should involve at least two supervisors. The School should designate one supervisor as “principal supervisor.”

The number of research students assigned to any one principal supervisor must be closely monitored by the relevant Head of School, who must take into account the overall workload distribution of the supervisor. In cases where a supervisor has primary responsibility for more than six full-time equivalent research students, the Head of School must be able to provide satisfactory assurance to the relevant Dean that such supervision does not impose a level of responsibility upon the member of staff that may be detrimental to the progress of the research students concerned.

For the EngD, the Head of School shall appoint an academic principal supervisor and an industrial supervisor. The latter shall be a member of staff of the industrial organisation that is sponsoring the student. The organisation will be a participant in the Engineering Doctorate Scheme. External supervision may also be needed for CASE PhD students, periods of fieldwork or placement, and external PhD students. In all such cases, however, an academic member of staff at St Andrews should be designated as principal supervisor.