Graduate Research Supervision Policy

# Schedule A - Expectations for Graduate Research Supervisors and Candidates

## Section 1 - Background and Purpose

This Schedule outlines the expectations and responsibilities of graduate research supervisors and candidates at La Trobe University in regards to personal conduct and behaviour as members of the graduate research community.

## Section 2 - Scope

Applies to:

* + All campuses
  + All supervisors of graduate research candidates
  + All graduate research candidates

## Section 3 - Statement of Expectations

Universities are places of safety and respect and all members of the graduate research community at La Trobe are entitled to pursue their research in a supportive environment free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification, victimisation, violence and other forms of unacceptable behaviour.

This is true of all members of the La Trobe community. However the relationship between a higher degree by research candidate and their supervisor/s is unique in that the relationship includes elements of both collegiality and instruction; in the closeness of the relationship over an extended period of time; and in the unique power imbalance between supervisor and candidate these factors represent.

**Supervisors** therefore have a responsibility to be aware of their own behaviours; to make sure they conduct appropriate relationships within the research community; and to actively contribute to a culture of respect and safety at La Trobe. We emphasise that these responsibilities are central to the role of supervisor and researcher.

**Graduate research candidates** also have a responsibility to foster and participate in a culture which promotes these values and to treat both fellow graduate researchers, academic colleagues and all staff and students at La Trobe with respect.

The University expects all members of the graduate research community to adhere to these principles as well as to the various codes designed to promote and apply them, including:

* [The Australian Code for the Conduct of Responsible Research](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/r39)
* [The Code of Conduct](https://policies.latrobe.edu.au/document/view.php?id=71)
* [The Workplace Behaviours Policy](https://policies.latrobe.edu.au/document/view.php?id=87&version=1)
* [The Student Behaviours Policy](https://policies.latrobe.edu.au/document/view.php?id=60&version=1)

Everyone has a right to raise issues or to make an enquiry or complaint in a reasonable and respectful manner without being victimised.

If you have any concerns about a potential conflict of interest or are aware of inappropriate behaviour you should speak with your Head of School, contact HR Assist or consider referring to the University’s [*Speak Up*](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/students/wellbeing/respect/speak-up) service, who can also help to navigate sensitive conversations.