

Researcher Lunch & Learn PhD Supervision

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What does the PhD mean to you? What does it mean to your students?

1. What is the role of a supervisor?

Supervisor roles and role models

Håkan Hallberg, Viktor Hjort, Jakob Löndahl, Martin Magnusson, and Markus Törmänen

“The students and their supervisors often had deviating opinions about the supervision, and the supervisors were not always able to recognize and meet the students’ needs. Uncertainties regarding roles and responsibilities easily occur, especially in more complex supervision teams. In conclusion, the study indicates a need for explicit discussions on expectations among different actors.”

What are the responsibilities of a PGR supervisor?

- Supervisor perspective

- PGR student perspective

Supervisor perspective

- Help the PhD student in networking and finding collaboration partners
- Strive to keep the supervisor/student relation on a professional level
- Arrange scheduled meetings with the PhD student(s)
- Define the research frontline
- Teach the process of paper writing and publication
- Gradually give the PhD student more freedom
- Encourage senior PhD students to act as mentors to more junior colleagues
- Provide funding
- Help the student in establishing the future career

Supervisor roles and role models

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PGR student perspective

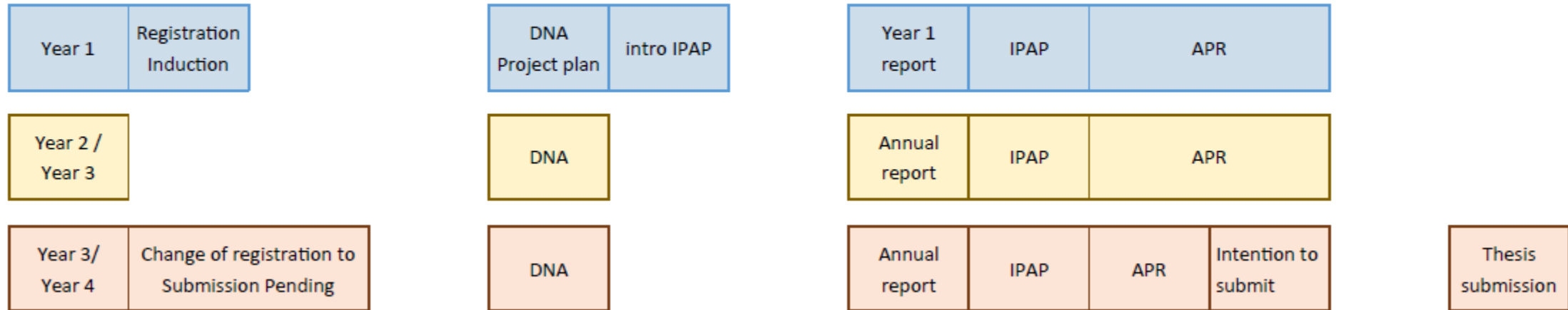
- Be a research project leader
- Be available for discussions
- Be sensitive to the well-being of the student
- Introduce the student to the subject

The students are more focused on moving their particular project forward and to produce results, while the supervisors lean more towards a general discussion of the subject and principles rather than details

The PGR Journey at Liverpool

How does your role change through the journey?

October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
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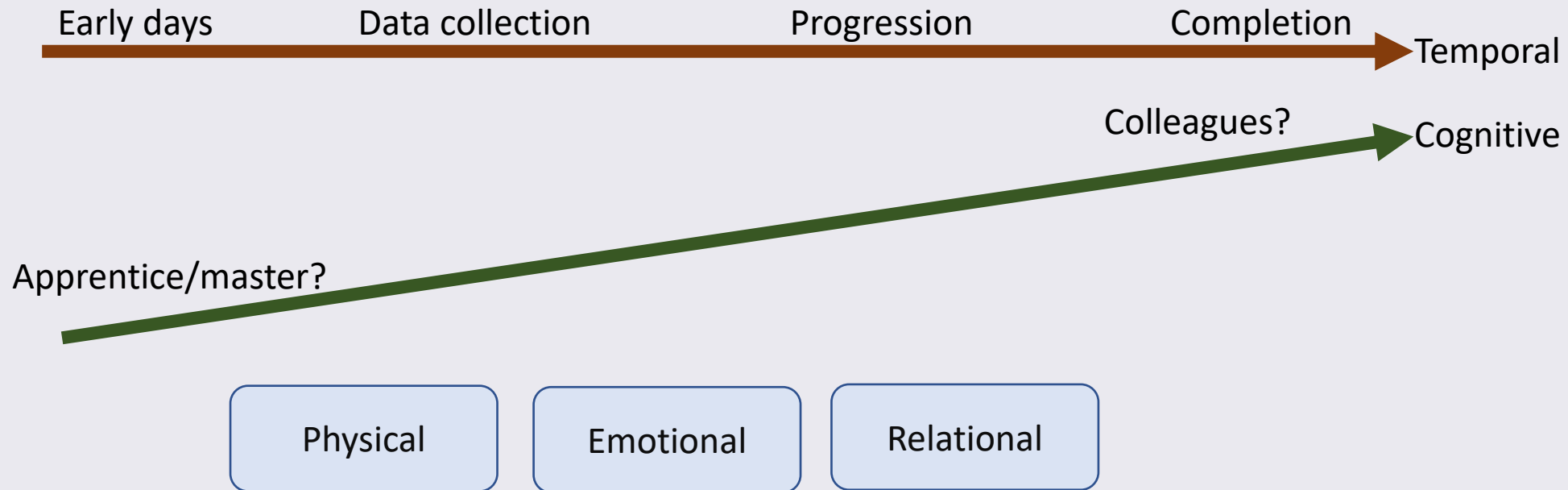


Viva

Corrections

Beyond graduation

Roles and role transitions through the PGR journey



Early days – exploring, discovering, focusing

Cognitive

But what is your role as the supervisor?

Physical

What are the boundaries of that role?

Emotional

What conflicts can occur?

Relational

Data collection – doing and finding out

Cognitive

Physical

Emotional

Relational

But what is your role as the supervisor?

What are the boundaries of that role?

What conflicts can occur?

Progression to PhD – analysis and sense-making

Cognitive

Physical

Emotional

Relational

But what is your role as the supervisor?

What are the boundaries of that role?

What conflicts can occur?

Completion – critically thinking about originality and contribution

Cognitive

But what is your role as the supervisor?

Physical

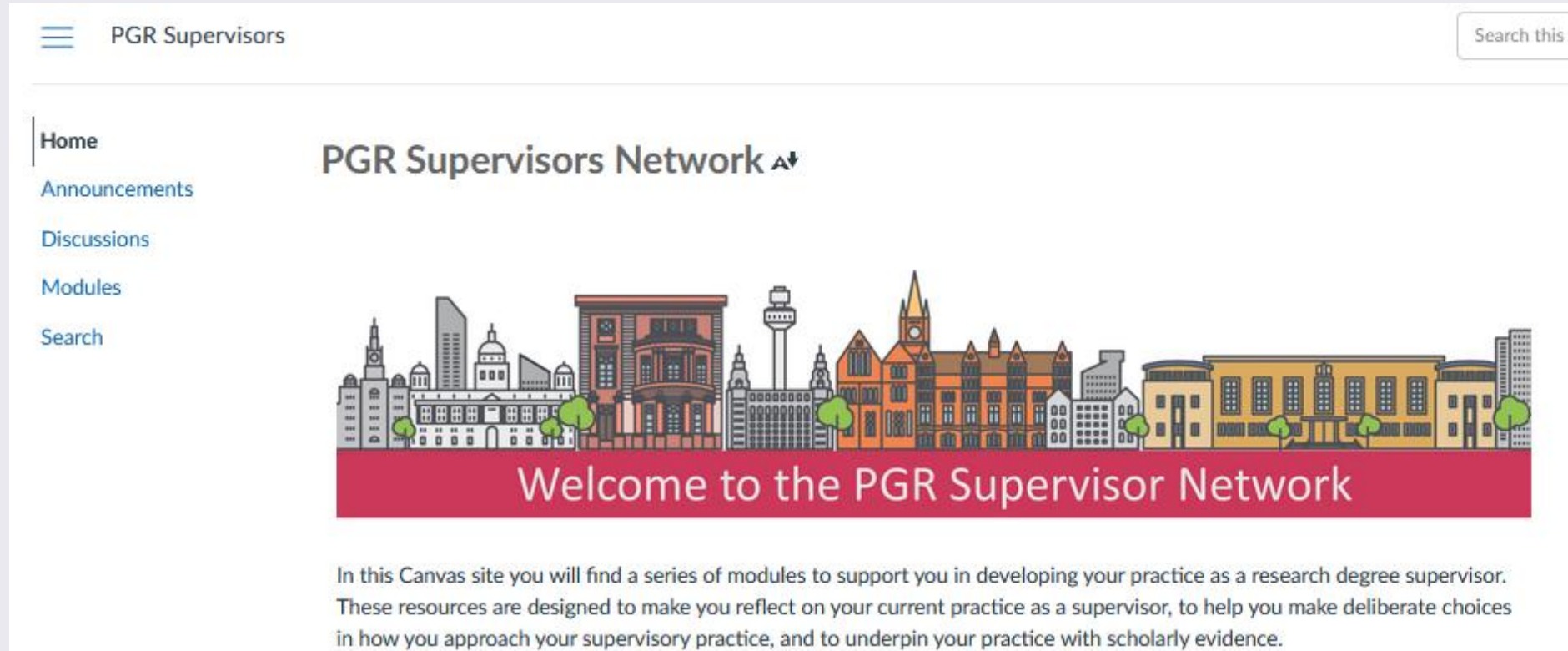
What are the boundaries of that role?

Emotional

What conflicts can occur?

Relational

Further resources and development



<https://liverpool.instructure.com/courses/24067>