

The Research Supervision website: An introduction for research students

The research supervision website is designed to provide easy access to University policies and strategies pertinent to supervision. As such it contains a wealth of information that will be useful to both new and continuing research students. The website provides tips on how to approach your DPhil and links to resources that may be helpful, whilst also providing an invaluable insight into the perspectives of supervisors.

Each page of the Research Supervision website is divided into three sections: 'Oxford information' (often including links to relevant policies) 'Ideas and tools' (strategies you can try out), and 'Insights from research and literature' (summarising research on the topic).

Research students may find the following pages *particularly* helpful.

A. Starting out and the stages of a DPhil

Starting a DPhil – deciding how to approach the topic, your timetable and how to work with or use your supervisor - can be complicated. Several pages on the Research Supervision website provide tips on how to manage these complex issues, and examples of different ways you can approach your work. Other pages provide information on publishing, presenting and the viva.

Defining the research topic

<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/stages/topic/>

Practical guidance on how to define and refine your subject.

Conceptions of research

<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/dphil/conceptions/>

Insight into the different ideas of how students and supervisors think about research.

Writing the thesis

<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/stages/writing/>

Advice on starting to write, and references for self-help books for overcoming writers' block.

Transfer and confirmation

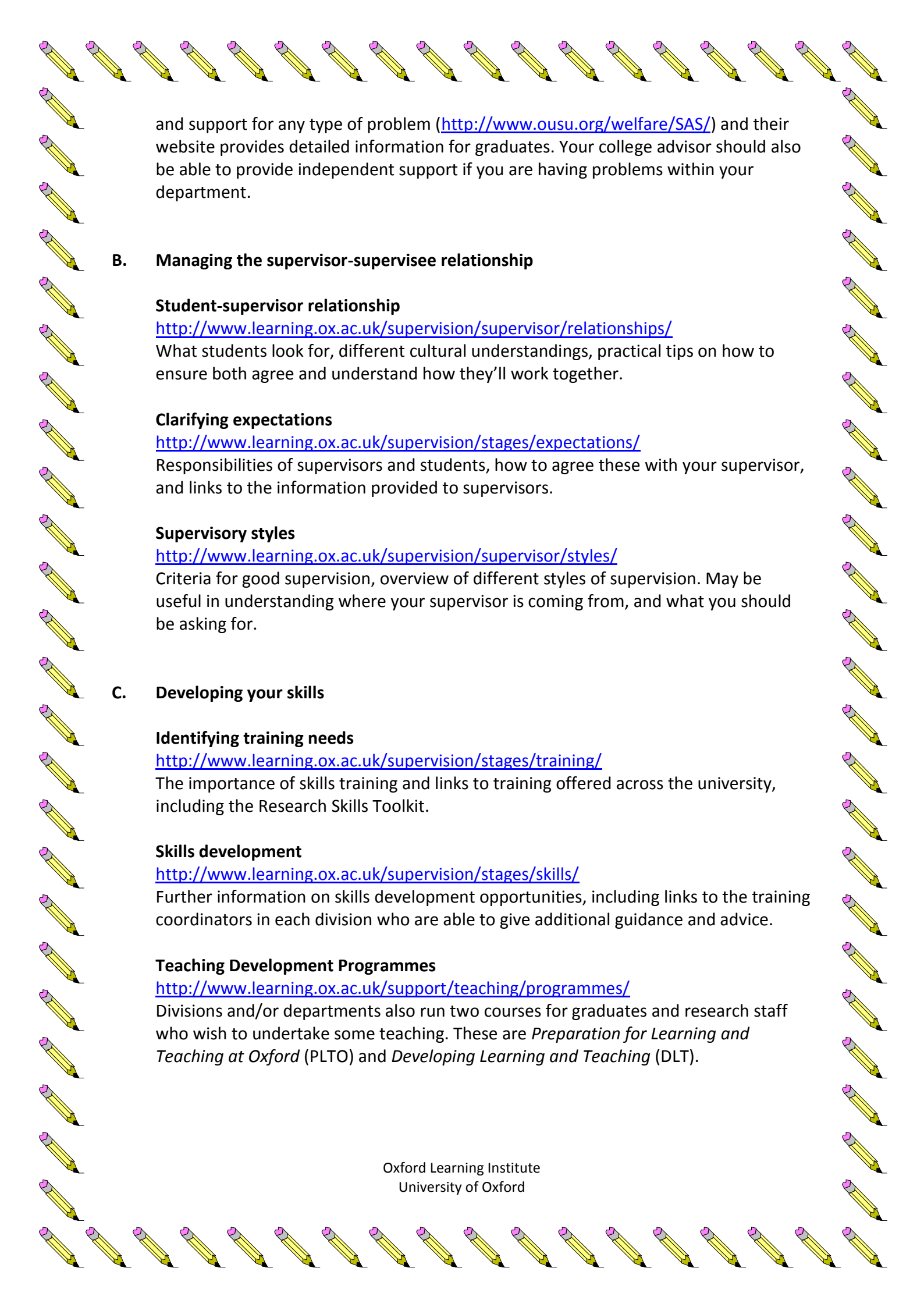
<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/stages/status/>

Information about the formal stages of a DPhil. It is advisable to also check your departmental handbook as practice varies across the University.

Problems: avoiding and dealing with them

<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/supervisor/problems/>

This page provides advice on how to work with your supervisor to avoid problems developing with your DPhil as well as sources of support if you are having problems, academic or otherwise. The Oxford University Student Union can also provide advice



and support for any type of problem (<http://www.ousu.org/welfare/SAS/>) and their website provides detailed information for graduates. Your college advisor should also be able to provide independent support if you are having problems within your department.

B. Managing the supervisor-supervisee relationship

Student-supervisor relationship

<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/supervisor/relationships/>

What students look for, different cultural understandings, practical tips on how to ensure both agree and understand how they'll work together.

Clarifying expectations

<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/stages/expectations/>

Responsibilities of supervisors and students, how to agree these with your supervisor, and links to the information provided to supervisors.

Supervisory styles

<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/supervisor/styles/>

Criteria for good supervision, overview of different styles of supervision. May be useful in understanding where your supervisor is coming from, and what you should be asking for.

C. Developing your skills

Identifying training needs

<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/stages/training/>

The importance of skills training and links to training offered across the university, including the Research Skills Toolkit.

Skills development

<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/stages/skills/>

Further information on skills development opportunities, including links to the training coordinators in each division who are able to give additional guidance and advice.

Teaching Development Programmes

<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/support/teaching/programmes/>

Divisions and/or departments also run two courses for graduates and research staff who wish to undertake some teaching. These are *Preparation for Learning and Teaching at Oxford* (PLTO) and *Developing Learning and Teaching* (DLT).