

Developing a vibrant research culture among your postgraduate students

Assessing the inclusion of postgraduate research students in your School/discipline/research group

Which of the following are components of the 'culture' of your School/discipline/research group? There is no suggestion that that all items are appropriate for all disciplines or research contexts. Nor is it suggested that any one discipline/research group would tick 'Yes' for all these items – miracles happen but not often! However, the list should provide food for thought and, perhaps, inspiration for initiatives in your discipline.

		Yes	Maybe	No	N/A
1	HDR students feature on the school/discipline web site				
2	There is a comprehensive academic induction program for new HDR students				
3	All new HDR students are informed about administrative procedures and how to access resources and facilities (e.g. photocopying, travel funds, computing support)				
4	HDR students are introduced to academic visitors to the School/discipline				
5	The seminar program includes HDR students – and they attend!				
6	Most academic staff attend HDR students' research presentations				
7	There is an annual (or biannual) conference presenting HDR students' work-in-progress				
8	HDR students, especially new HDR students, discuss their work with staff other than their supervisors				
9	Most HDR students attend social events (Xmas lunch, B-B-Qs, Happy Hours)				
10	General staff treat HDR students as members of the department rather than as students				
11	The postgraduate coordinator is an experienced supervisor and this role is counted in his/her workload				
12	There are HDR student representatives on key decision-making committees – and they attend!				
13	HDR students are included in journal clubs and writing groups				
14	Supervisors have group meetings of their HDR students as well as 1:1 meetings				
15	There are student-led, peer-support programs in place				
16	There is a mentoring program (in addition to academic supervision) in place				
17	HDR student achievements (eg successful completions, jobs, articles accepted) are celebrated by most staff				
18	The resource commitments (e.g. desk, computer, conference funds) made by the University are delivered – and someone checks that this is so!				
19	The Annual Review is a frank and constructive process and not just an administrative chore				
20	International and local students mix socially and collaborate on their research				
21	Part-time HDR students attend many of the academic and social activities				
22	Off-campus HDR students attend many of the academic and social activities				
23	HDR students are introduced to outside experts from industry or the professions via guest lectures, meetings or social events				
24	Career advice is provided to all HDR students				
25	At least 75% of the HDR students would respond positively to the statements: <i>The department provided opportunities for me to become involved in the broader research culture</i>				
26	<i>The research ambience in the department stimulated my work</i>				
27	<i>The department provided opportunities for social contact with other postgraduate students</i>				
28	<i>I was integrated into the department's community</i>				
29	<i>A good seminar program for postgraduate students was provided</i>				