

Some ideas to talk through with students regarding a needs analysis

1. What does the student see as being the main skills that she/he will need in order to successfully complete a research degree? (This is where they will most probably need coaching from you as they are unlikely to be aware of many of the skills.)
2. Which of these skills does the student consider she/he already has?
3. Which ones does she/he consider need to be developed e.g. Presenting a seminar? Critically reviewing the literature?
4. How might these be developed e.g. 'Taught' by supervisor? Workshops? Professional courses? Auditing formal courses? From interacting with peers?
5. When might these be developed e.g. Immediately? Half-way through candidature?
6. What knowledge does the student bring to the research project e.g. Honours in a similar topic? Thirty years of professional experience?
7. What knowledge gaps might there be?
8. How might these gaps be addressed e.g. Undertake a language course? Take a statistics refresher course?
9. When and how might it be integrated with the research project e.g. Learning a particular technique a year or so before it is going to be used might not be the best use of time?
10. Are there specific knowledge areas, skills or experiences that the student is keen to develop while undertaking a doctorate e.g. experience being part of a research culture?
11. Are there particular skills, knowledge that the University requires, e.g. Graduate Capabilities, generic skills?

Add your own!!!