Remote Supervision of Graduate Students

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Ask your students how they are doing.

Ask what you can do to help.
How to best support students

- Timelines and Milestones
- Student Stipends
- Oral Examinations
- Transitioning to working from Home
- Guidelines for effective supervision
- Practical Research Considerations
- Resources
- Q & A
It is understood that this global crisis is likely to delay or significantly change your students academic and research plans.

Please be assured that these unprecedented interruptions for your student will be considered by the graduate program and FGS in the evaluation of academic progress and milestone expectations.
As long as your student remain registered as a graduate student, they can expect continued mentorship from you as the supervisor and uninterrupted funding and scholarship payments (as outlined in the letter of offer/scholarship terms of reference).
Contingencies for all oral exams are in place.

Students and examiners will participate remotely by zoom video conference.

For PhD public seminars, we will make the zoom link available for everyone wanting to attend, and then create a separate zoom meeting for the exam.

Neutral chairs have been given instructions on Zoom, how to share a presentation, how to access the virtual white board, how to put students into a “break-out” room during deliberations and how to anonymously take straw polls.
working from home is both awesome and HORRIBLE
Ensure that both you and your students have a productive space to work, including IT supports
- Access to data/resources
- Have an up-to-date contact list for all members of your research group
- If applicable – ensure secure internet connections
- Ensure you communicate your work schedule to your group and those in your home – encourage your students to do the same.
- Take breaks! Get moving!
• Ask your students what they need to work from home effectively.
• Maintain, as much as possible, the interactions you previously had with your students (research discussion meetings, JC, presentations, lab meetings)
• Be transparent about your availability
• Schedule regular check-ins with your students
• Respect your students time and availability
• Be clear about your expectations
• Be adaptable to the situation
Working from home – Student Support

- Be understanding about decreased productivity
- Create smaller, manageable deliverables
- Encourage Opportunities for research group members to engage with one another virtually
- Ask about each others health and well being
- Know what resources are available for staff and students are feeling anxious
- Your emotional leadership as a supervisor is critical
- International students may be especially vulnerable
Be supportive

Working from Home can be isolating and dispiriting

Try to make it fun for your group with diverse and inclusive opportunities
- Encourage your students to be creative in their learning – work on their research proposal, write a paper/review article, work on a scholarship application, data analysis. READ! THINK!
- Supervisor should work with their students to develop a personalized plan for success
- Prioritize activities
- Let students know that ethics protocols can be modified
- Postpone all in-person interviews – reschedule to virtual meetings.
These are exceptional times

This is a time for mutual support and understanding that will require continuous adjustment and accommodation.
Take Care of yourself
- https://www.ucalgary.ca/news/mental-health-tips-working-home
- https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services
- https://research.ucalgary.ca/covid-19
- https://grad.ucalgary.ca/covid-19-information-graduate-students