Appendix 1

CSCI Research Culture – Best Practice for PhD Supervisors

- New supervisors are required to attend the Supervising Graduate Students workshop provided by the University prior to, or within 3 months of accepting their first CSCI PhD Student, and experienced supervisors are encouraged to attend update sessions.
- The Supervisor should have regular 1:1 meetings with the student (monthly in Year 1), and the student should be made aware of the planned meeting schedule. During these meetings, in addition to considering research matters, the Supervisor should pay attention to the general wellbeing of the student.
- The supervisor must ensure that the student is trained in the principles of good research practice and research integrity (as summarised in University guidelines https://www.research-integrity.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-integrity/research-integrity-and-good-research-practice-checklist) and should reinforce these principles in meetings with the student.
- PhD projects may be closely related to or fall within ongoing projects in the lab, but the student must be given their own area of responsibility with scope to pursue new directions. Extent of delegation of supervision over experiments should be discussed and agreed between postdoc, student and supervisor. The supervisor must ensure the post-doc understands their responsibilities to the student and must monitor the relationship between post-doc and student, intervening if any difficulties arise.
- The student should learn that research involves teamwork. However, after any initial training period, students should not work on studies outside on their thesis project without careful consideration by the supervisor for the impact on PhD quality and completion, and without full consent of the student.
- Students should present regularly at group meetings and receive supervisor feedback on both scientific content and presentation skills.
- Students should be expected to attend all CSCI internal and invited speaker seminars, and relevant external seminars. Students should also be encouraged to participate in relevant journal club(s) and the PhD student discussion club.
- Supervisors are encouraged to use preprint servers when appropriate for early dissemination of student results. Note that this forum may be used flexibly to publish sets of results prior to a final manuscript for journal publication. Preprints provide an opportunity for students to experience manuscript preparation, allow them to receive recognition for their work, and make the work visible to potential employers.
- Supervisors should provide advice and mentoring on future career choices, including opportunities outside academic research.
- Supervisors should advise on timing and planning of thesis writing and should be available to provide feedback on drafts up to and including the final submission.

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