

(UPDATED 23 August 2023: FAQs from Stakeholders on Interpretation of MQA's Standards: Masters and Doctoral Degree (SMDD)).

(You can access the latest edition of SMDD on the [MQA's webpage](#))

Accreditation for supervisors across all Monash campuses is governed by the central policies that apply to all staff. This includes:

[Graduate Research Student Supervision Policy](#)

[Graduate Research Student Supervision Procedure](#)

Recent changes to the MQA SMDD, to take effect Jan 1, 2024, however, will impact the eligibility to be the main supervisor (PhD) at MUM and therefore affect the appointment of supervisory teams at MUM, which is delegated to the Academic Head of Unit.

To be appointed as a main supervisor of a PhD at MUM, one must be accredited and fulfil conditions 1.a. or 1.b. or 2, and one must fulfil condition 3:

1. 1.a. Staff employed before January 1 2024 must have continuously supervised a PhD student for two (2) years to completion (conferral letter)
1.b. Staff employed from January 1 2024 onwards must have supervised a PhD student from start to completion (conferral letter).

OR

2. One must have supervised a PhD student for one (1) year **and**, in addition, one must have continuously supervised a Masters by Research student from start to completion (conferral letter);

AND

3. One must have worked for at least two years (2) in teaching and research in a Level B position (or equivalent) onwards. In cases where a Level A, who commenced work prior to August 8 2022* moves into a Level B position, an application may be made to the CGRC to have prior work experience recognised, provided a PhD was in hand during that prior experience.

*the date of the MQA notification regarding enforcement of the SMDD.

NB. Colleagues can still apply for Monash supervisor accreditation after one year of associate supervision (and take up 50% of the supervision in a two-person supervisory team - see 1.1 Graduate Research Student Supervisor Procedure), but will be required to meet Conditions 1 or 2, and 3 to be eligible to be a main supervisor at MUM.

Table 1: Questions and Answers

No.	Questions	Answers
1	Is there any minimum supervision duration?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The minimum PhD supervision duration required in Condition 1 is two years, for existing staff. Staff joining after December 31, 2023, will need to co-supervise from start to completion to be eligible for main supervisor status.</p> <p>Condition 2 will entail different durations depending on the duration of the Master by Research.</p>
2	Should the cumulative experience be post-PhD?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>In MQA's SMDD (page 18), cumulative experience of at least two (2) years of experience in teaching and research is needed to be the main supervisor for graduate research students.</p> <p>At MUM, one must have worked for at least two years (2) in teaching and research in a Level B (equivalent) position onwards.</p> <p>Case Study: An academic member of staff had experience in teaching tutorials during his/her/their tenure as a PhD student. This experience will not be counted towards the two (2) years of experience.</p>
3	What about Level A positions and Condition 3?	<p>Most Level A staff at MUM do not engage substantively with both teaching and research (Condition 3), and many do not possess a PhD. However, Level A experience may count towards condition 3 upon application to the CGRC and only in cases where a PhD was in hand during all or part of the Level A appointment. Applications can only be made when a staff member moves from a Level A to a Level B position.</p>
4.	Why is MUM adopting these new rules?	<p>MUM is required to comply with MQA standards. This has meant new criteria being introduced for main supervisor eligibility. These have been discussed with MUA and with relevant Campus Committees.</p> <p>New expectations around main supervisor requirements are an opportunity for MUM to increase our supervisory capacities by mentoring junior colleagues into main supervisor status. We should actively encourage eligible staff who have not been part of a supervisory team to join one in an associate supervisor capacity in order to gain</p>

		experience and move towards meeting the MQA eligibility requirements. Likewise, established colleagues should, when appropriate, invite junior colleagues onto supervisory teams.
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Should you have any additional queries or require further clarification, please feel free to reach out to the chairperson of the CGRC