



# Effective Communication with Doctoral Students

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# Effective Communication with Doctoral Students (DS)



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# Why is it Important?

- **Clarity of Expectations:** Clear communication helps setting specific goals and expectations
- **Guidance and Support:** Supervisors provide crucial support and guidance throughout the doctoral process
- **Increased Engagement:** Open lines of communication foster a sense of belonging and engagement among students
- **Timely Feedback:** Regular, constructive feedback helps students refine their research and writing skills, guiding them toward successful completion of their doctoral programs.
- **Emotional and Mental Well-being:** Doctoral studies can be isolating and stressful. Effective communication provides an outlet for students to express concerns and challenges
- **Conflict Prevention and Resolution:** Proactive communication can help identify potential conflicts early. Addressing issues promptly can prevent escalation and maintain a healthy working relationship.
- **Fostering Independence:** Good communication encourages students to develop their own ideas and approaches while providing them with the freedom to explore within a supportive framework.
- **Career Development:** Supervisors can communicate effectively about networking opportunities, professional development, and publication strategies, assisting students in their future careers in academia or industry.
- **Better Outcomes:** Ultimately, effective communication can lead to higher completion rates, better research quality, and a more positive overall experience for doctoral students.

**Effective communication is foundational for academic success, personal growth, and building a productive and collaborative academic relationship.**



# 10-Points Strategy for Effective Communication with DS



**1. Establish Clear Expectations**

**2. Schedule Regular Meetings**

**3. Listen Actively and Carefully**

**4. Provide Constructive Feedback**

**5. Be Approachable**

**6. Emphasize Emotional Support**

**7. Foster Independence**

**8. Solve Conflicts**

**9. Encourage Feedback**

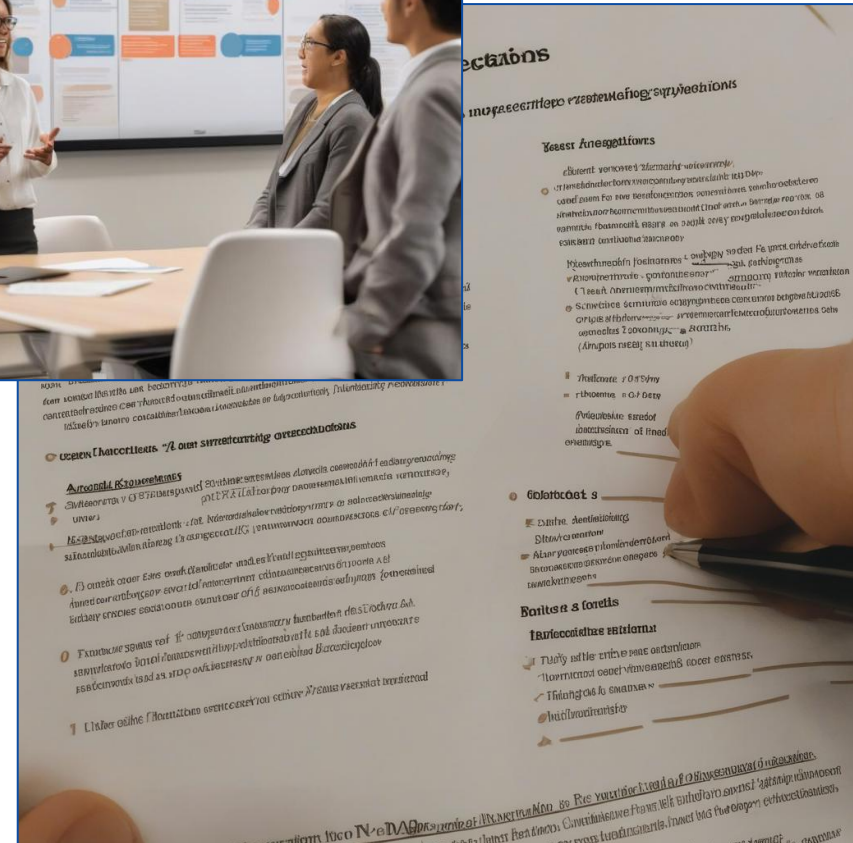
**10. Celebrate Achievements**



# 10 Points Strategy for Effective Communication with DS

## 1. Establish Clear Expectations

- Clearly outline research goals, timelines, and roles from the beginning.
- Provide a written document summarizing these expectations for reference.



# 10 Points Strategy for Effective Communication with DS

## 2. Regular Meetings

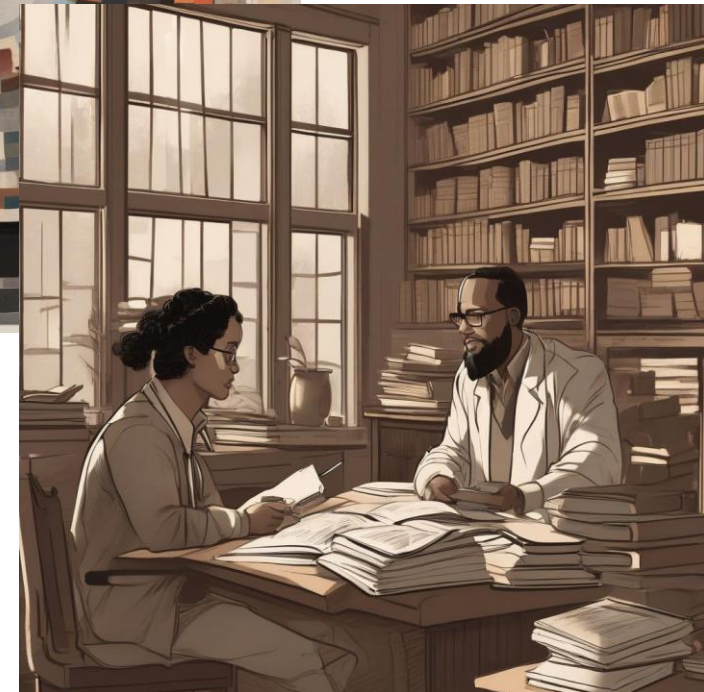
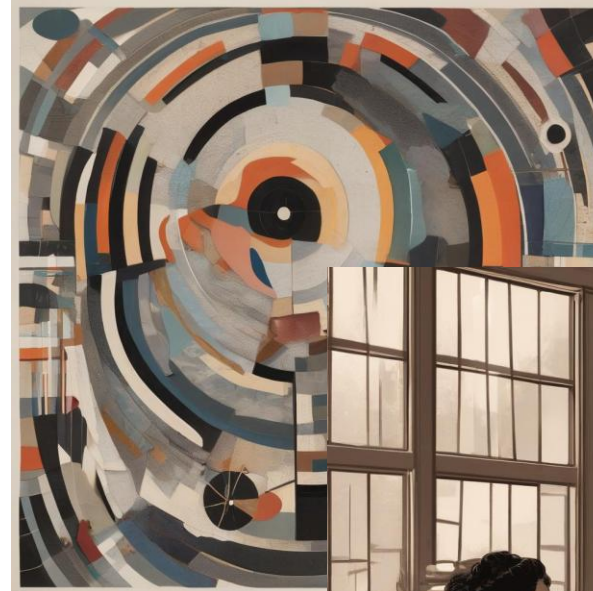
- Schedule consistent one-on-one meetings to discuss progress, address concerns, and provide feedback
- Encourage open dialogue during these meetings to create a safe space for discussion



# 10 Points Strategy for Effective Communication with DS

## 3. Listen Actively and Carefully

- Practice active listening to understand students' challenges and perspectives
- Acknowledge their concerns and provide thoughtful response



# 10 Points Strategy for Effective Communication with DS

## 4. Provide Constructive Feedback

- Offer timely and constructive feedback on research and writing
- Balance critical feedback with positive reinforcement to motivate students





# 10 Points Strategy for Effective Communication with DS

## 5. Be Approachable

- Cultivate an approachable behavior so students feel comfortable seeking you
- Communicate your availability and encourage them to reach out whenever needed



# 10 Points Strategy for Effective Communication with DS

## 6. Emphasize Emotional Support

- Recognize that doctoral students can be stressful; be empathetic to their challenges
- Encourage self-care and provide resources for mental health support if needed



# 10 Points Strategy for Effective Communication with DS

## 7. Foster Independence while Providing Guidance

- Support students in developing their own research ideas while providing adequate guidance
- Encourage them to take ownership of their projects while being available for assistance



# 10 Points Strategy for Effective Communication with DS

## 8. Conflict Resolution

- Address any conflicts or misunderstandings promptly and professionally
- Mediate discussions if necessary, focusing on finding solution rather than assigning blame



# 10 Points Strategy for Effective Communication with DS

## 9. Ask Feedback on Supervision

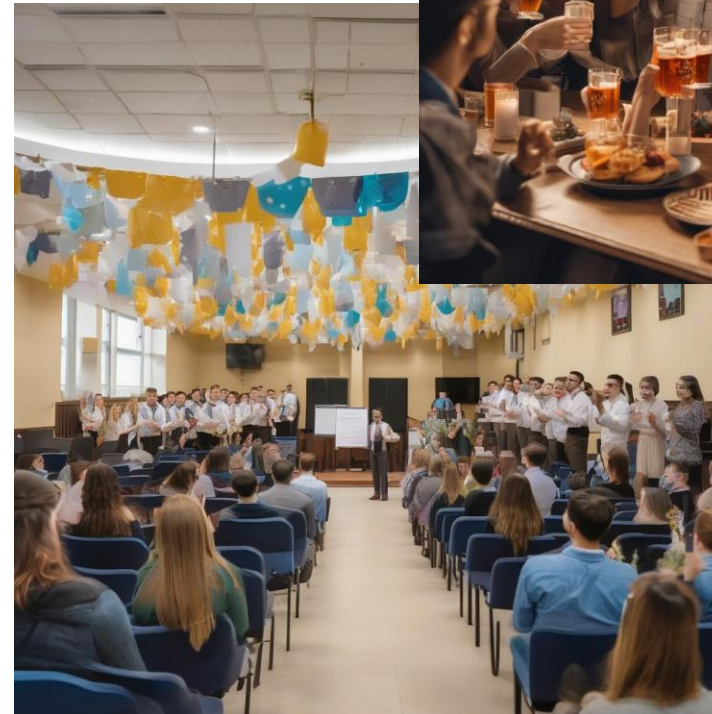
- Solicit feedback from students about your supervisory style and communication effectiveness
- Be open to making adjustments based on their input.



# 10 Points Strategy for Effective Communication with DS

## 10. Celebrate Achievements

Acknowledge and celebrate milestones and accomplishments to boost morale and motivation



# Suggested Bibliography (Papers)



**Orellana, M. L., Darder, A., Pérez, A., & Salinas, J. (2016).** Improving doctoral success by matching PhD students with supervisors. *International Journal of Doctoral Studies*, 11, 87-103. Retrieved from <http://ijds.org/Volume11/IJDSv11p087-103Orellana1629.pdf>

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**Polkinghorne, M., Taylor, J., Knight, F., & Stewart, N. (2023).** Doctoral Supervision: A Best Practice Review. *Encyclopedia*, 3(1), 46-59. <https://doi.org/10.3390/encyclopedia3010004>

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**Michael Christie, and Ramon Garrote Jurado. 2013.** “Using Communicative Action Theory to Analyse Relationships Between Supervisors and Phd Students in a Technical University in Sweden.” *Högre Utbildning* 3 (3): 187–97. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=26323873-3e93-3e79-808d-fcba1cb9e3f4>



# Suggested Bibliography (Books)



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**Taylor, S.; Kiley, M.; Humphrey, R.** A Handbook for Doctoral Supervisors, 2nd ed.; Routledge: Abingdon, UK, 2017.

**Kumar, S.; Kumar, V.; Taylor, S.** A Guide to Online Supervision; UK Council for Graduate Education: Litchfield, UK, 2020.

**Carter, S.; Guerin, C.; Aitchison C.** Doctoral Writing: Practices, Processes and Pleasures, Springer 2020  
ISBN 978-981-15-1807-2 ISBN 978-981-15-1808-9 (eBook)  
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4 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN  
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**Lee, A.L.; Bongaardt, R.** *The Future of Doctoral Research: Challenges and Opportunities*, 1st ed.; Routledge: Abingdon, UK, 2021.





# Other Resources

## Elsevier Academy Webinars



Researcher Academy

Research Journey ▾

Career path ▾

Sign in

Register

### RESEARCH PREPARATION

- > Funding
- > Research data management
- > Research collaborations
- > Research design
- > Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) Guidelines

### WRITING FOR RESEARCH

- > Fundamentals of manuscript preparation
- > Writing skills
- > Technical writing skills

### PUBLICATION PROCESS

- > Fundamentals of publishing
- > Finding the right journal
- > Ethics
- > Open science
- > Publishing in the Chemical Sciences
- > How to publish in premium journals
- > Research metrics

### NAVIGATING PEER REVIEW

- > Fundamentals of peer review
- > Becoming a peer reviewer
- > Going through peer review
- > Certified Peer Reviewer Course

### COMMUNICATING YOUR RESEARCH

- > Social impact
- > Ensuring visibility
- > Inclusion and Diversity for Researchers



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Experiment and analyse

Write and publish

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Develop your career

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# Other Ressources

## Nature Master Classes

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- Write and publish**
- Share and disseminate
- Develop your career
- Work with others



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### Navigating Scientific Writing: Webinar Recording

Explore exciting questions on scientific writing with two *Nature Portfolio* editors



### Publishing a Research Paper

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### Publishing a Research Paper: 2nd Edition

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