

SUMMER RESEARCH 2024/25

PROJECT ABSTRACT



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

PROJECT # 12

SUPERVISOR/S:	Dr Dianne Forbes
PROJECT TITLE:	Supporting postgraduate research
FIELD:	Education
DIVISION/SCHOOL:	DEDU - Te Kura Toi Tangata School of Education
PROJECT LOCATION:	Hamilton

PROJECT ABSTRACT:

At Masters and Doctoral level, students engage in supervised postgraduate research in the form of a dissertation or thesis. In the Division of Education, often this will involve two (or more) academic staff as supervisors working closely with each student to guide the research and provide feedback as the project develops. What support do students actually need and want at postgraduate level, as they work on supervised research?

What do students expect from their supervisors, particularly in the Division of Education?

How do expectations differ according to diverse learning needs, and according to the level and stage of the thesis study?

What do effective supervisors do, and how do we know what effective supervision is?

What support do supervisors need and want from the Division and wider institution?

This project seeks to build an understanding of existing knowledge of effective supervision strategies, including the dual angles: how to support research students; and how to support supervisors. There is a wealth of research evidence and scholarly insight into how to supervise, in terms of global approaches, and specific strategies for supporting students and supervisory teams. In the context of the Division of Education, where we have a large number of research students at both Masters and Doctoral level, it is timely to enquire into the needs of students and supervisors, in order to design avenues for support.

The summer scholar will work in collaboration with the new Associate Dean Postgraduate in the Division of Education in order to explore the needs of research students and supervisors. The scholar will review academic literature on effective supports for students and supervisors, and will assist in administering a survey of the needs of current students and supervisors in the Division of Education.

This project will be of interest to students who are considering continuing on to postgraduate study, as they will learn about the experiences of students undertaking research, identify areas of common need, and gain a sense of diverse approaches to obtaining support. The scholar will gain valuable skills and insight by collaborating with an experienced researcher, learning about student research processes, and making an important contribution to our Division's strategies for supporting research students. Tasks will be varied and interesting, extending research experience as the scholar will attend library consultations, search, reference, scan, summarise and file articles and ebooks. The scholar will assist with administering surveys, and will be involved in analysis of survey data, with particular focus on student data. The scholar can expect to produce a poster as a key output, alongside a joint presentation to postgraduate students, and there will also be opportunities to contribute to a blogpost and/or academic journal article.

STUDENT SKILLS:

- Organisation
- Digital fluency
- Communication
- Time management

PROJECT TASKS:

1. Attend library consultations to extend search skills
2. Search, reference, scan, summarise and file articles and ebooks
3. Administer a survey (questionnaire)
4. Collate initial findings from survey data

5. Participate in a reporting back session for postgraduate research students in the Division of Education where the supervisor and scholar will jointly present findings and consult on ideas for responding to identified needs.
 6. Produce a final research poster
 7. Potential to contribute to a blogpost and/or academic journal article.
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EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Student's Research Poster (as per clause 6 of the [Scholarship regulations](#))
- Presentation to postgraduate students
- Blogpost: Ipu Kererū <https://nzareblog.wordpress.com/>