Graduate School

The University of Nottingham

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- Growing number of doctoral students researching whilst in practice
- Mix of professional doctorates & CDT/DTP based research students
- PGRs studying on a P/T basis whilst in practice
- Introduced joint supervisor training in 2013

DTProgs at Nottingham

- BBSRC doctoral training partnership (38)
- Carbon capture and storage and cleaner fossil energy (15)
- ESRC doctoral training centre (19-38)
- Horizon – my life in data (12-16)
- Fuel cells and their fuels (10)
- AHRC Midlands3Cities DTP (82)
- Regenerative medicine (10)
- Manufacturing technologies (10-12)
- Integrated magnetic resonance (MRI) (2-4)
- CDT Rehabilitation and healthcare (7)
- NERC Envision DTP (12)
- CDT Additive manufacturing & 3D printing (14)
- CDT Sustainable chemistry (15)
- Innovative manufacture in composites (72)
- International doctoral innovation centres (IDIC China) (46)

www.nottingham.ac.uk/doctoral-training-centres/our-centres.aspx

Postgraduate Research Awards

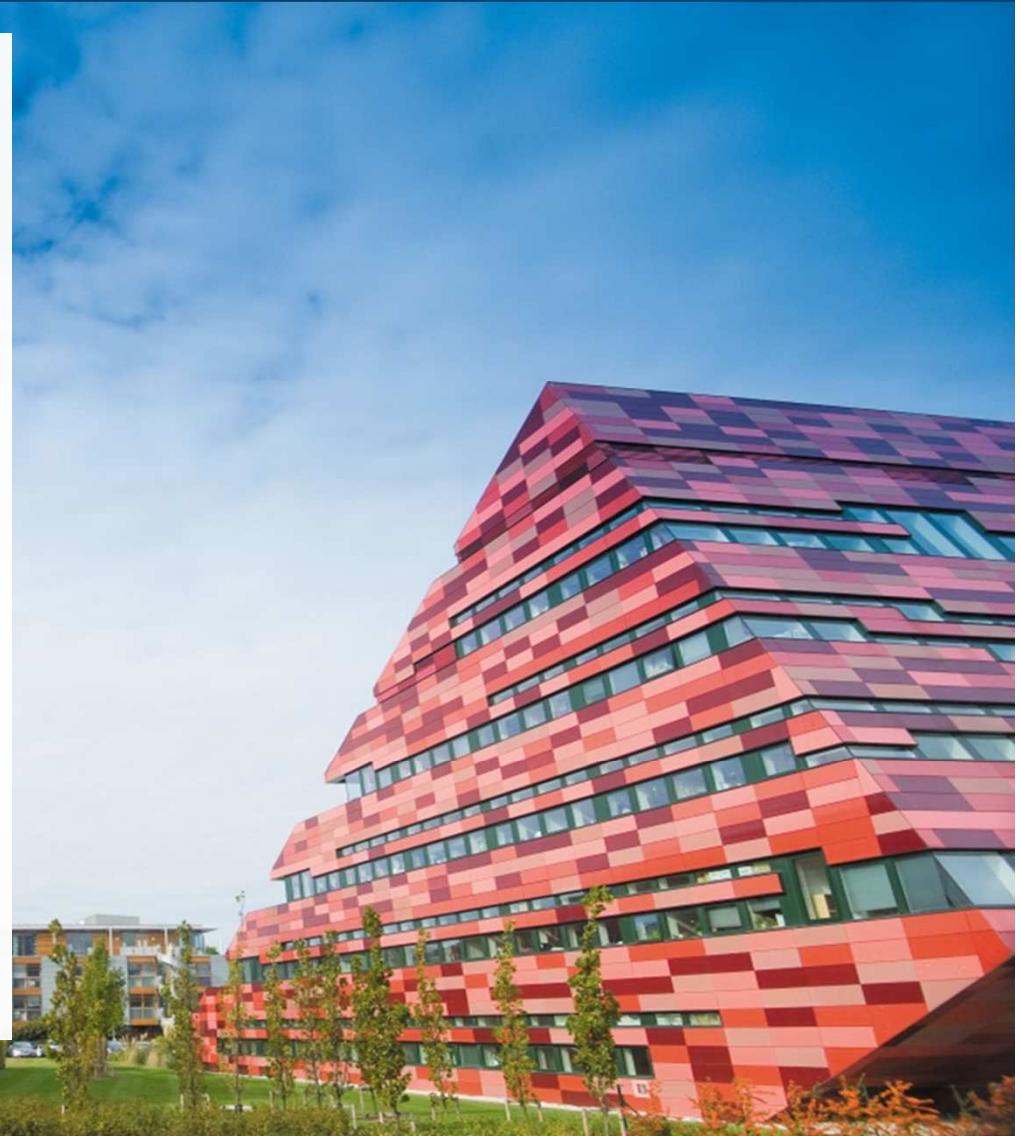|			
AMusD	DclinPsy	DVetMed	MA (by research)
AMusM	DForenPsy	DVetSurg	MPhil
DAgriFood	DHealthPsy	DVM	MRes
DAppEdPsy	DHSci	DVS	MSc (by research)
DAppPsych	DM	EdD	NurseD
DASS	DPM	EngD	**PhD**
DBA	DPP		

Strategic & operational issues

- Trend - increase in Engineering, Education, Social Care, Medicine and Health Sciences.

- Driver - requirement for career advancement

- Student and supervisor roles & responsibilities - movement of knowledge between practitioner partners and academic partners.

- Supervisor development - updated professional knowledge

- Longer term goal for university - to build an emerging research culture that is practice based and has sustainable outcomes

- Privileged funding - from partner org, government, charity, etc

- Student more likely to opt for careers outside academia - supervisors required to aid/support career aspirations.

Researchers in practice

Managing & supporting students:

- More mature, maybe a senior professional, may have significant practice experience - implications for appropriate/acceptable supervision styles

- Students view role as equal, mutual learning, two way process. Relationship more informal and collegial, but still unequal due to strong academic agenda of doctoral study.

- Opportunity to bring everyday business occurrences into research group

- Master v apprentice model may not be appropriate nor supervisor v student. Maybe Advisor v practitioner?

Researchers in practice

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Managing & supporting students:

- Some supervisors will only have experience of the 'standard' PhD format. May have little awareness of additional considerations when co-supervising with external partners within professional doctorates.

- Expectations alignment - perceived lack of assistance - but supervisors need to appropriately challenge the student.

- Need to challenge 'doing over thinking' outlook. Philosophy of practice = lets get on with the doing/target/outcome driven

- Possible need to confront resistance to use language of research and anti-intellectualism

Managing & supporting students:

- Vulnerability - when presenting work for critical review in academic forum places students in a different position to the authority and leadership they may have in their workplace.

- Need to develop agility - whilst researching they do not cease to practice, and whilst practicing, they do not cease to research.

- May need more help with study skills if re-engaging with education.

- Possibly physically isolated from their main research group

- Support structures for students in difficulty?

- Day-to-day work location? partner v University location?, balance of time spent on research sites? implications?

Research projects

Suitability and changing nature

- Employers/Research partners directly participating in research project development and execution.

- Most collaborative projects are based on good research questions likely to lead to answers.

- Provocation - If question can be solved in less than 2 years is it really research appropriate for a doctoral award?

- Ownership - whose knowledge is it? Ownership of IP arising from research project? thesis embargo? right to publish?

- Shared agenda - assumption that consensus exists.

Research projects

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Suitability and changing nature

- Need to produce knowledge that is theoretically sound and original AND of relevance to (multiple) practice areas.

- Contextual developments - original political, industry, cultural, other drivers for the research project can change. possibly more of an issue with a professional doctorate.

- Project duration - over possible 3-6 years field of practice will move on considerably - need to publish continuously.

- Being diverted away from research project onto local issues that need to be addressed for research partner - impact on research project?

- Changing direction of research project at bequest of research partner without informing university?

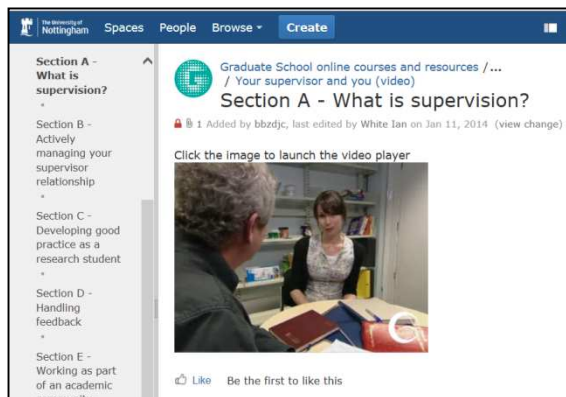# Support provision for supervisors
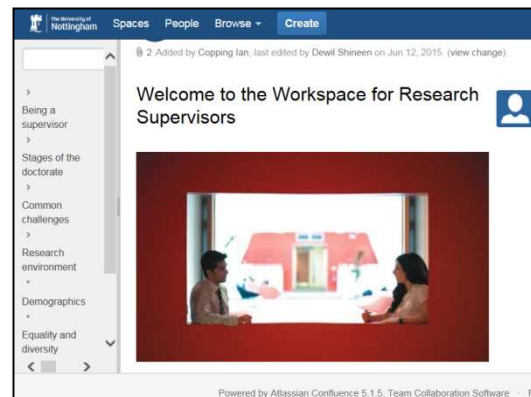

Online self-directed course

Bespoke in-School sessions

Face to face workshop

Video resources

Workspace

Seminar series

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