



Graduate supervisor-student relationships: resources & supports

If you're in a research-stream program, supervision can be the most defining experience of your graduate career. Where can you look for information about supervision, or find additional support if you need it?

Your Graduate Administrator or Coordinator can provide a wealth of information specific to your program. Your Graduate Coordinator and Graduate Chair can help you address questions or concerns about your own experience of supervision.

Beyond your program, a variety of resources and supports are also available to you.

a) To help you better understand expectations around supervision, and what your responsibilities are:

- read the supervision guidelines developed by the School of Graduate Studies in consultation with the [University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union \(UTGSU\)](#), [Graduate Conflict Resolution Centre](#), [Accessibility Services](#), [Indigenous Student Services / First Nations House](#), and other members of the graduate community. You can find the [student version](#) and [faculty version](#) of these guidelines on the SGS website.
- attend a free supervision workshop offered by [Gradlife](#) and the Conflict Resolution Centre. Find out about upcoming sessions on the [Gradlife](#) and [SGS](#) websites.
- read this [reflection on the student-supervisor relationship](#) by a peer advisor at the Conflict Resolution Centre.

b) To speak confidentially about an aspect of supervision that you're uncertain about:

- contact Gail Fernando, UTGSU Membership and Advocacy Coordinator (416-946-8699; membership@utgsu.ca). Gail can provide a sounding board for your questions and concerns and assist you with advice, information, and/or representation, if needed.

c) To speak confidentially about a potential conflict with your supervisor:

- contact Gail Fernando, UTGSU Membership and Advocacy Coordinator (416-946-8699; membership@utgsu.ca).
- meet with a peer advisor at the Graduate Conflict Resolution Centre ([appointments and drop-in sessions](#) are available)
- request an appointment with the [Vice-Dean, Students](#) at the School of Graduate Studies. If appropriate, the Vice-Dean may invite the parties to engage in informal mediation in order to attempt to resolve the issue. The matter may be referred to the Dean of School of Graduate Studies if a solution cannot be reached during consultations with the SGS Vice-Dean, Students.
- contact the [U of T Ombudsperson](#) should matters remain unresolved after consulting with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.