



Rehabilitation Sciences Institute (RSI) Graduate Student Supervision Policy

A RSI faculty with a SGS full or associate membership is eligible to supervise RSI students.

MSc

A RSI faculty member without previous supervisory experience can be the sole supervisor of a RSI MSc student provided at least one PAC member has previous supervisory experience in RSI and a SGS membership.

PhD

A RSI faculty member with previous supervisory experience can be a sole supervisor of a RSI PhD student. He/she must have FULL SGS membership.

Although SGS recognizes a single supervisor per graduate student, the RSI recognizes the co-supervision of students under two circumstances.

1. **Mandatory Co-supervision:** Co-supervision is mandatory when a faculty member without previous supervisory experience agrees to supervise a PhD student. Within the RSI, previous supervisory experience includes:
 - a) Supervision of a RSI student through the successful defense of the thesis;
 - b) Being a member of the PAC of a least one RSI student through the successful defense of the thesis; or,
 - c) Supervising research students at the MSc or PhD level in another graduate department at the University of Toronto, or an equivalent program in another recognized university through the successful defense of the thesis.

A faculty member with previous supervisory experience will co-supervise with a faculty member without supervisory experience in the role of a PhD supervision mentor. For the purposes of communications with SGS, the mentoring supervisor will be recognized as the student's PhD supervisor.

2. **Voluntary Co-Supervision:** Two faculty members and a student may negotiate the roles of co-supervisors to accommodate the interests of the student in having:
 - a) A balance of two thematic or methodological orientations represented in the student's supervision;
 - b) Continuous supervision in the likelihood of prolonged absences of one supervisor; and/or,
 - c) Other reasons mutually agreed upon by the student and the co-supervisors.

Faculty supervisors and the student must reach a consensus on the selection of the primary supervisor for the purposes of communications with SGS. The primary supervisor for the purposes of communication will be identified no later than at the time of the first PAC meeting. The supervisor and the supervisory committee must be approved by the RSI Director.

Approved: ///

Amended 02/02/16