Me and my Supervisor

Dr Nhol Kao
HDR Coordinator

School of Civil, Environmental and Chemical Engineering
College of Science, Engineering and Health

HDR Student Research Culture Session
24 April 2013

www.rmit.edu.au
Outline

- My Personal Experience as a HDR candidate
- My Personal experience as a HDR Supervisor
- What should you expect from your Supervisors?
- What should your Supervisors expect from you?
“You’ve just completed a Bachelor degree, with a job offer, why postgraduate study?”

Possible options:
• Work
• Further study
• Work and part-time study
My Opportunities

Research experience

Teaching experience

PhD

Academic
(I found my vocation!)
# HDR Candidates Supervision

**Supervised 4 PhD candidates as a Senior Supervisor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PhD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sangari (2003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raha (2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadinata (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sungsanit (2011)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Co-Supervised 2 PhD and 3 Master of Engineering candidates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PhD</th>
<th>Master of Eng.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pourjavaheri (2012)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
My Current HDR Candidates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Supervisor of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tapasi Mukherjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sakinul Islam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associate Supervisor of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Esmaeil Narimissa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What should you expect from your Supervisors?

• Treat you with **RESPECT** and **TRUST** *(different level of trust, which must be earned)*

• Behave in a **professional manner and attitude**

• **Approachability** is a bonus

• Meet with you regularly *(frequency should be discussed and agreed early)*

• Be your **first point of contact** to discuss any issues you may have associated with your research during your candidature

• Provide **academic and administrative guidance** related to your research
  – Different guidance is required at different stages of your PhD
  – Carry out **administrative duties** *(i.e. paper works)* properly and promptly

• Assess your work in a timely manner
  – turn around time for a major piece of work *(i.e. journal paper, thesis chapter, etc.)* is usually within 2 weeks for me; or
  – a couple of days if it’s urgent and needed my prompt response

• Be **critical of your work, but fair**; and allow you room to make mistakes

• Praise and provide encouragement for your good work
What should your Supervisors expect from you?

- That you treat them with **RESPECT**
- **TRUST** them from the beginning
- Behave in a **professional manner and attitude**
- You provide **regular communications** (meeting, email, phone) to them
- **Complete tasks on time**, when required, and with minimum errors
- Keep up to date with the **literature** in your area
- Desirable **personal attributes**
  - A degree of independency (but not too adventurous!)
  - Be a self starter
  - Be **passionate** about your own research project
  - Possess great **patience** or **perseverance**
  - Competent in the lab
I believe that possessing good “APPS”

Approachable, Passionate, Patience or Perseverance, Student (and Supervisor)

will get you started on the right track to building a successful, life-long, student-supervisor relationship.
Remember that …

Your success is their success!

✓ You will receive your PhD
✓ They will receive a PhD completion

Good luck with your research!