



UNAM
UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

Postgraduate Students Supervisors Induction Workshop

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- I. Introduction
- II. Workshop Objectives and Expected Outcomes
- III. Role of Postgraduate Supervisors
- IV. Postgraduate Support Services Process Flow
- V. Conclusions and Questions

OBJECTIVES:

1. The workshop is intended for postgraduate supervisors of research students at UNAM.
2. The workshop is organised to update postgraduate research supervisors 'understanding of recent changes to postgraduate institutional processes and standard operating procedure.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. By the end of the workshop, participants will have a well-informed understanding of the recently updated rules and regulations guiding the University of Namibia's postgraduate institutional processes.
2. The workshop aims to empower and support participants to better understand and adhere to the revised rules and regulations guiding postgraduate processes.

- **Supervision in the academic context** can be viewed as a process of facilitating the student to become an independent professional researcher and scholar in their field, capable of adapting to various research arenas, whether university or industry based.
- However, formal postgraduate research **supervision training** for supervisors is not included in most postgraduate curricula.
- Consequently, supervisors usually depend on **their personal experiences** of how they were supervised as postgraduate students, ultimately, every supervisor builds his/her own model of supervision.
- It is assumed that if supervisors can do research **they can supervise** as well.
- This view of research supervision which is focused on the **content knowledge** and research expertise of a supervisor ignores the pedagogical content knowledge of research.

Postgraduate supervision should not only be geared towards producing a research based written thesis.

But rather, supervision should have two aspects; *mentoring* and *supervision*.

Mentoring goes beyond supervision and involves engaging the student for a longer period.

The role of the supervisor should therefore include two aspects:

1. To provide a high-quality research and learning environment for the postgraduate student. The supervisor ensures that the organizationally determined educational goals are executed.
2. The other aspect is mentorship which focusses on the personal growth of postgraduate students.

Through **mentoring** and **advising**, the supervisor develops a professional interpersonal relationship with a postgraduate student that is conducive to scholarly activities, intellectual enhancement and promotes the student's professional career.

APPROACHES TO SUPERVISION THAT HAVE GONE ONLINE

1. Traditional apprenticeship model
 - Lonely scholar model.....No community for part-time students
 - Structured support depends on supervisor

Alternative Models

2. Seminars
3. Structured coursework
4. Collaborative approaches e.g. project teams, cohort based approaches
 - Common in the Natural Sciences, less in the Humanities & Social Sciences
 - Benefits of community, not necessarily online.

Apart from developing students' research skills.....Alternative models of supervision enhance the development of transferable skills among postgraduate students.....

Assignment of supervisors

Every postgraduate student shall be assigned a supervisor/supervisors as follows: **one (1) supervisor** for Master's students and two **(2) supervisors** for Doctoral candidates) recommended by the relevant Department based on concept note review, and approved by the School Admission, Assessment and Graduation Board.

Once a supervisor has taken up the supervisory role, they have responsibilities towards the University, the student and themselves. These responsibilities are outlined in "*The Interim Postgraduate Support Services Regulations & Guidelines (August – December 2021)*".

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisors are required to guide students appropriately during the proposal development stage.

Once the supervisors are satisfied with the proposal, they notify the respective department that the research proposal can be presented and the student is ready to present the proposal.

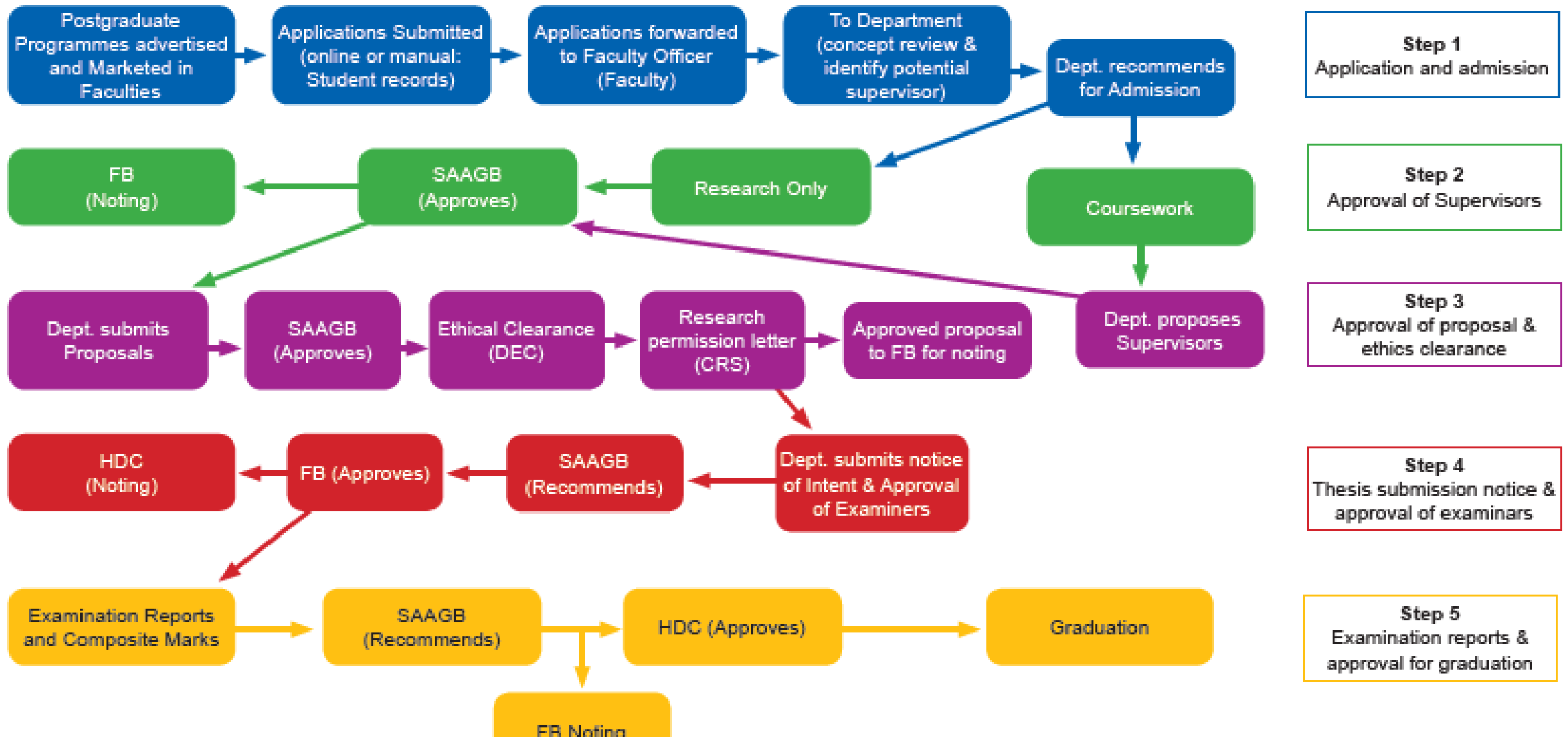
It is mandatory that all documentations (i.e. annexures) be signed, dated and attached to the proposal document.

During the presentation they should be representation from the '*Decentralised Ethics Committee*' (DEC).

Nahas Angula Enkono



INTERIM POSTGRADUATE SUPPORT SERVICES PROCESS FLOW (AUG-DEC 2021)



| Degree | Study Mode | Minimum Duration | Maximum Duration |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|
| Master's Degree By: | | | |
| Coursework and Research | Full-time | 2 years | 3 years |
| Coursework and Research | Part-time | 3 years | 4 years |
| Coursework and Project Report | Full-time | 1 year | 2 years |
| Coursework and Project Report | Part-time | 1.5 years | 3 years |
| Research only | Full-time | 2 years | 3 years |
| Research only | Part-time | 3 years | 4 years |
| Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) | | | |
| PhD | Full-time | 3 years | 4 years |
| PhD | Part-time | 4 years | 5 years |

QUESTIONS ARE WELCOME NOW



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

