

PGR Supervisor Forum Q&A

- A Chemistry student is pregnant. Is it the supervisor's responsibility regarding their safety in the lab with chemicals etc?
The local well-being officer and chair of the EDI team, both females, may also be useful points of contact for a preliminary chat and local advice. They will be able to signpost the student to the University support services.
The student should be advised to discuss with the Chemistry Health and Safety officer and their supervisory team as soon as possible.
The Method Statement for the PhD work should be reassessed and suitable risk assessments carried out.
Depending on the nature of the project, significant adjustments may be required, including possibly changing from lab to deskwork. Alternatively, it may be necessary to switch to lab work with lower safety concerns, or to alter some of the PhD objectives to prevent risks for the pregnant student.
The welfare of a pregnant student should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Can we provide a quick link to the progression timeline and PGR Manager guide?
Progression timeline: Here is the link to the progression review milestones for each school within FEPS. This information is in the Doctoral College Handbook
<https://sotonac.sharepoint.com/teams/PGRhandbook/SitePages/Progression-Milestones.aspx>
In addition, on PGR Manager here is the link on how to find the specific milestones for each student
<https://sotonac.sharepoint.com/teams/PGRManagerGuide/SitePages/Timelines,-deadlines-and-tasks---guidance-for-supervisors.aspx>
This is the link for the PGR Manager guide: <https://pgrmanager.soton.ac.uk/do/help>
- Supervisors currently spend time searching for resources on studentship opportunities and supervisory roles with students. Please could we get regular emails or organized events with this information?
One of the objectives of the new PGR Supervisor Forums is to disseminate information to supervisors. We plan to hold two or three supervisor forums each year.
A summary of studentship opportunities is available on the FEPS Sharepoint site.
<https://sotonac.sharepoint.com/teams/FEPS/SitePages/PGR-Funding-Information-2023-24.aspx>
- What is the workload allocation for supervising PhD students- I think 3-4 hours a week per student is the minimum.
There is a University working group reviewing principles of workload models. There is not uniformity of workload models used by the Schools in FEPS. We are not aware of time allocated directly via workload models for supervision of individual PhD students. Currently this is included as part of the overall time allocated for research activities.

- How do supervisors access the Blackboard training course?
[Link to Blackboard course](#) [Introduction to doctoral supervision eLearning course](#)
[Link to CHEP SharePoint site for doctoral supervisors](#)
<https://sotonac.sharepoint.com/teams/ResourcesforDoctoralSupervisors>
- Is the EU fee waiver irrespective of whether the PhD studentship is funded by Horizon Europe?
Yes. This is a new directive from the University. The EU fee waiver is available for all PGRs with nationalities of Horizon-associated countries. The fee waiver may be used in conjunction with other funding schemes (such as the UKRI 30% rule). For PGRs not eligible for the EU fee waiver, the Presidential bursaries pay the difference between international and home fees. FEPS will provide additional Presidential bursaries funded by the Faculty.