

Clarifying Expectations and Establishing Good Communications

Research Direction

- How much direction do you expect from your supervisor?
- How much direction does your supervisor expect to exert over your research?

Knowledge and Skills

- Would you rather find things out on your own, or would you prefer to be taught by your supervisor?
- How do your preferences line up with your supervisor's?
- Which skills do you have and which skills does your supervisor expect you to have?

Time Management and Meetings

- How often do you expect to meet with your supervisor?
- How much does s/he expect from you?

Feedback and Constructive Criticism

- How often do you expect input or feedback from your supervisor?
- What are your supervisor's expectations?

Turnaround Times

- How quickly do you expect your supervisor to provide feedback on work that you have submitted for review?
- How quickly does your supervisor anticipate being able to provide feedback?

Communication between Meetings

- Does your supervisor prefer to communication by telephone or e-mail?
- How quickly do you expect a response to an email or phone message?

Expectations for Written Work

- Does your supervisor expect to receive your work all at once, or in smaller chunks?
- Does s/he expect drafts to be "works in progress" or fairly polished pieces almost ready for publication?
- At what intervals does your supervisor expect you to submit work?
- Would your supervisor prefer to receive documents in hard copy, or electronically?

Adapted from McGill University |