

End-user Associate Supervision

Contextual information

The [ACOLA Review of Australia's Research Training System](#) and the [Engagement and Impact Assessment 2018-19 National Report](#) refer to the important role that HDR training plays in improving industry-university collaboration and research translation.

ACU is now required to report the number of HDR students who have an Associate Supervisor (End-user) to the Australian Government each year.

The Australian Research Council has flagged that it intends to use end-user associate supervision as an engagement metric in the next Engagement and Impact Assessment (2024).

What is an Associate Supervisor (End-user)?

An Associate Supervisor (End-user) is a specialist from outside ACU who can provide expertise to the supervision of an HDR student and who will directly use or directly benefit from the research. An Associate Supervisor (End-user) supplements the supervision provided by the ACU Principal Supervisor and Co-supervisor.

An end-user (organisation) is a business, community organisation, government or government organisation, or non-government organisation.

Examples of Associate Supervisor (End-users) include:

- a member of the leadership team of a school
- a health practitioner, for example, a dietician, exercise physiologist, nurse or physiotherapist
- a senior/specialist staff member from an advocacy or charitable organisation
- a senior/specialist staff member from a government or government organisation
- a senior/specialist staff member from a regulatory body.

What type of organisation does not qualify as an end-user organisation?

An end-user organisation is not a publicly funded research organisation (CSIRO, AIMS, ANSTO, NMI, DSTO etc.); another higher education provider; or an organisation that is an affiliate, controlled entity or subsidiary (such as a Medical Research Institute) of a higher education provider. Anyone employed by these types of organisations, even if only on a part-time or honorary basis, would not meet the definition of an Associate Supervisor (End-user).

How can an Associate Supervisor (End-user) contribute to an HDR project?

Examples of how an Associate Supervisor (End-user) may contribute to an HDR project include helping to shape the investigation; offering an end-user's perspective to the research as it progresses; mentoring the HDR student on industry practices; assisting with research translation and commercialisation plans; providing access to research participants and specialist equipment for the project.

If suitably qualified, and if the Principal Supervisor defines it as part of his/her role, an Associate Supervisor (End-user) may contribute to the research project by reading drafts of the HDR student's thesis and being involved in his/her milestone activities, for example, confirmation of candidature, mid-candidature review and final year review.

An Associate Supervisor (End-user) may also co-author publications arising from the research project in accordance with ACU's [Research Authorship](#) policy.

Is it mandatory to have an Associate Supervisor (End-user) on a supervisory panel?

It is not mandatory, but Principal Supervisors are encouraged to consider the value of including an Associate Supervisor (End-user) on a panel. Many of the HDR projects carried out at ACU are conducive to and would benefit from end-user associate supervision.

What academic qualifications should an Associate Supervisor (End-user) hold?

An Associate Supervisor (End-user) is not required to hold academic qualifications, although he/she may. An Associate Supervisor (End-user) should have expertise in the area of the HDR student's project.

Does ACU remunerate an Associate Supervisor (End-user)?

No. The role of Associate Supervisor (End-user) is voluntary and is based on reciprocity; that is, both the end-user and ACU benefit from the association. End-users gain insight into the value of research and HDR students are provided with a better understanding of real-world problems and how to solve them. End-user associate supervision also encourages industry collaboration at the early stages of a researcher's career.

Who is responsible for managing an Associate Supervisor (End-user)?

The Principal Supervisor is responsible for defining and managing the contribution of an Associate Supervisor (End-user). ACU's [Higher Degree Research Regulations](#), [Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy](#), [Research Authorship](#), [Intellectual Property](#) and any other relevant policies must be observed.

How is an Associate Supervisor (End-user) appointed?

The Pro Vice-Chancellor Research is delegated to approve an HDR supervisory panel, including the appointment of an Associate Supervisor (End-user).

Questions

Questions about end-user associate supervision should be directed to Jeanine Parsons, Research Engagement Manager. E:jeanine.parsons@acu.edu.au.