Development of a Model for Blended Postgraduate Research Supervision in Irish Higher Education

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Document Type
Book Chapter

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Disciplines
5.3 EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES, *training, *pedagogy, Education, general, including:

Publication Details
Published in Emerging Issues in Higher Education III, 2012.

Abstract
By tradition, postgraduate supervisors work with their students on an individual basis. However with increasing numbers of part--time and international students, and the current resource challenges being faced by Irish higher education institutions, supervisory relationships are now likely to be conducted in a more collaborative and connected way and new approaches are being developed to cope with the expanding student numbers, and the diminishing ratio of supervisors to students. Indeed, the recent National Strategy in Higher Education to 2030 calls for the sector to innovate and develop if it is to provide flexible opportunities for larger and more diverse student cohorts (DES, 2012). Sustainability is important in this initiative, specifically for continuing to build research capacity on Masters' programmes and to promote the value of the ‘cascade’ effect of group feedback in the supervision process. This effect of the link between feedforward and feedback amongst fellow students and supervisors will be discussed in more detail in a subsequent section of this chapter.

Recommended Citation