

Graduate Student Supervision Policy Proposal:

NOTE: Supervisor is not the same as "a co-supervisor". ROSI and SGS make a distinction between supervisor (primary), and co-supervisor (secondary). As far as ROSI is concerned, a student cannot have two co-supervisors, with neither designated as supervisor. The supervisor has the responsibility of overseeing the student's progress, and s/he is responsible for the DCS's obligations to the student. We use this SGS terminology here.

PhD:

Each student who starts their PhD program on or after Nov. 1, 2013:

- Must have one supervisor who is a full or emeritus* member of CS-SGS (this individual has the primary responsibility for supervision)**;
- May, in addition, have one co-supervisor who is a member of SGS [broader than CS-SGS].
- Must form a PhD supervisory committee within the first 12 months of their program which consists of their supervisor, co-supervisor (if any), plus at least two more members of SGS [broader than CS-SGS].
- May have one or more "external advisors" [without SGS status] on their PhD committee. External advisors do not contribute to the quorum, but can fully take part and vote at all the departmental checkpoints. They have a restricted status at the SGS Final Oral Exam.

MSc:

Each student who starts their MSc program on or after Nov. 1, 2013:

- Must have one supervisor who is an associate, full or emeritus* member of CS-SGS (this individual has the primary responsibility for supervision)**.
- May, in addition, have one co-supervisor who is a member of SGS [broader than CS-SGS].
- May have one or more "external advisors" [without SGS status] to provide additional advice.
- After completing the MSc research paper, the paper must be evaluated and approved by two readers, one of whom must be the student's supervisor. The second reader must be a member of SGS. (Evaluation forms are available from the graduate office. While external advisors can provide feedback on the research paper, they cannot serve as a one of these formal readers.)
- In order to transition to the PhD program, the student must have a suitable CS graduate faculty member (see PhD supervision above) sign to this effect on the MSc research paper evaluation form. (Typically only two MSc research paper evaluations need to be submitted.)

MScAC:

Each student who starts their MScAC program on or after Nov. 1, 2013:

- Must have one supervisor who is an associate, full or emeritus* member of CS-SGS (this individual has the primary responsibility for academic supervision)**.
- May, in addition, have one co-supervisor who is a member of SGS [broader than CS-SGS].
- May have one or more "external advisors" [without SGS status] to provide additional advice.
- In addition to the staff listed above, the student will have an industrial supervisor during their internship.

Footnotes:

* Emeritus SGS members need to have written approval from DCS before taking on new supervisory duties.

** CS-SGS members with "associate (restricted)" or "full (restricted)" status are typically not permitted to take on new supervisory duties. Members with a restricted status should check their most recent appointment letters for details.

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ToDos:

1. GAC review.
2. Present revision to all DCS faculty, asking for a response.
3. Notifications, if approved:
 - a) The grad office will need to let our faculty know before starting grad student recruiting.
 - b) The grad office will need to let students who may be transitioning from the MSc to a PhD program asap. Existing supervisory relationships are grandfathered.
 - c) Modify Grad Handbook and place a FAQ accessible from web.cs.