

SUMMER RESEARCH 2024/25

PROJECT ABSTRACT



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

PROJECT # 14

SUPERVISOR/S:	Dr. Jessica Rubin & Dr. Katrina McChesney
PROJECT TITLE:	Developing supervisory feedback as a responsive, ethical practice; principles for affirmative response to postgraduate research and writing
FIELD:	Education, Tertiary
DIVISION/SCHOOL:	DEDU - Te Kura Toi Tangata School of Education
PROJECT LOCATION:	Student can be based at either campus or can do this work online (with regular synchronous online meetings)

PROJECT ABSTRACT:

This summer project is conceived as the foundational step for an empirical research project with postgraduate research/writing supervisors. The wider project seeks to move beyond understandings of feedback that solely consider the development of students' cognitive and technical skills or the improvement of the written text. While these are undoubtedly important functions of supervisory feedback on research writing, we are interested in how feedback 'lands' with students, and the sorts of approaches that ensure feedback contributes to and maintains a supportive, safe, ethical, and empowering environment for diverse students to flourish. In this phase, the aim is to use existing literature to develop a working set of meaningful principles for supervisors of postgraduate research students, with the understanding that through future action research, the principles will be continually refined, revised, or perhaps changed. The principles themselves will be based in (conceptual and empirical) research from many perspectives, including those that inform trauma-informed practices, culturally and linguistically sustaining education practices, critical understandings of gender and race, response-able practices, and other perspectives to be determined through early conversations with the summer research team. Through this summer project, the student will gain: experience using literature to answer a research question; skills in locating and synthesising literature to make a scholarly contribution; and familiarity with literature on ethical, relational, trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and other inclusive approaches in postgraduate education. The project would suit a student interested in any of: postgraduate research (as an object of study), the teaching of writing/the development of writers; higher education; inclusive education; equity in education.

STUDENT SKILLS:

- Organised and independent
- Excellent reading comprehension
- Understanding of APA 7th edition (for referencing and style)
- Ability to produce short pieces of clear writing with a quick turnaround
- Zotero expertise a plus
- Ability to work independently and communicate via Zoom/MS Teams

PROJECT TASKS:

1. Develop an understanding of supervisory structures and the significance of supervisory response to writing; construct summary
2. Develop an understanding of different approaches to writing response (generally) and a vocabulary for making these processes identifiable and visible; construct summary
3. Through published examples, decide what are the qualities of meaningful and immediately usable principles for teaching practices; construct summary
4. In several cycles, work with project supervisors to identify contributing bodies of research for development of principles
5. Construct an annotated bibliography of major contributing sources; use Zotero
6. Draft and refine a collection of principles for presentation through research poster
7. Contribute to one/more of the following: a blog post/presentation of findings; a proposal for research funding for the next phase of this work

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Student's Research Poster (as per clause 6 of the [Scholarship regulations](#))
- Produce well-organised and correctly referenced summaries of background research as noted above
- Produce writing that shows thoughtfully distilled and thoroughly synthesised information from several contributing bodies of research literature
- Create a research poster to present the work and stir interest in future research.
- Blog post/presentation of findings and/or contribution to funding proposal for subsequent phase of research