

# Strategies for Coping with Struggling Students

Prof Gavin T L Brown  
Associate Dean Postgraduate Research  
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**EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL WORK**

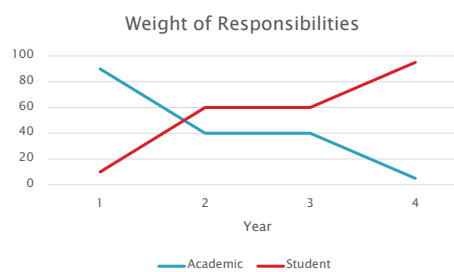
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## Stages

- ▶ Admission/Selection
- ▶ Provisional Year
- ▶ Annual Report



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## Selection



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- ▶ Look for
  - High GPE/A
  - From good university for overseas (top 10% of overseas country)
  - Own funding
- ▶ Negotiate topic
- ▶ Discuss how you like to supervise
- ▶ Remember! This is NOT a Taught degree, it's a Research Degree, so they have to work independently
  - Expectation: 120 points = 1200 hours → after leave → 25 hours per week min.
- ▶ Assign appropriate courses in provisional year
  - (max 60 points)
- ▶ Invest time here

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## Provisional Year



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- ▶ Create lab culture with other students you supervise
  - Introductions, specialisations
  - Schedule presentation of research prior to PYR
- ▶ Monthly meetings
  - Workload: 50 hrs → 1 hr meeting, 2 hr read & feedback = 36 hours
  - Specify writing assignments prior to each meeting
    - No writing submitted? Still meet and explore reasons for failure, do not be satisfied with apologies or explanations.
  - Set Milestones
    - By month x, this will be done
    - By month x+z, this will be done
  - Record problems in meeting notes on Wahapū
    - Especially not meeting deadlines, poor quality writing
    - Communicate problems to student, don't leave them in doubt

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## PYR report



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- ▶ Proposal
  - Show which template you want
  - <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/education/study-with-us/study-options/doctoral-programmes/research-proposal-structure.html>
- ▶ Consider termination:
  - no proposal ready (10k words)
  - Poor presentation
  - Poor review by reviewers
  - Persistent lateness

[Template 1: For students working in sociological, philosophical, and critical theory perspectives.](#)

[Template 2: For students working in psychological and scientific perspectives.](#)
- ▶ Natural Justice matters
  - But so does your life
  - If start poor, don't expect change
  - Must record & communicate evaluations and recommendations

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## Annual report



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- ▶ Evaluate Quality & Progress
- ▶ 48 months FTE is all that TEC funds
  - Plan to finish in that time
  - If unlikely, what can you change?
  - Method, study, message of thesis?
- ▶ Persistent problems
  - Set Conditions and change registration status on report

1. Overall quality of the candidate's work:¶  
 a.  Very good → → d.  Irregular-but-satisfactory¶  
 b.  Good → → e.  Below-acceptable-standard¶  
 c.  Satisfactory → ¶  
 If-(d)-or-(e),what-measures-have-you-taken?¶  
 Enter-text¶  
 ¶  
 2. Overall rate of progress of the candidate:¶  
 a.  Very good → → d.  Irregular-but-satisfactory¶  
 b.  Good → → e.  Below-acceptable-standard¶  
 c.  Satisfactory → ¶  
 If-(d)-or-(e),what-measures-have-you-taken?¶  
 Enter-text¶  
 ¶

I recommend that the candidate's registration be:¶  
 Continued →  Terminated (Please attach a Change of Conditions form with details) → ¶  
 Continued subject to specific conditions as outlined below¶  
 Enter-conditions-(if-applicable)¶  
 ¶  
 I have discussed my comments & completed the joint report with the candidate:¶  
 Yes...  No (If no, please comment below)¶  
 Enter-comment¶  
 ¶  
 I have recommended alterations to the candidate's registration: ...  Yes →  No¶  
 ¶

These have teeth and can be used to terminate or precipitate withdrawal by student

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## Fundamental principles

- ▶ Take responsibility for your apprentice
  - Show/teach/explain what to do but it's their thesis
- ▶ Truth with kindness
- ▶ Natural justice
- ▶ Open communication
- ▶ Maintain and teach standards
- ▶ Trust your instincts
- ▶ Be brave