

Scenario 3: Building a more formal doctoral education program

In light of recent developments in the sector, your University has proposed the introduction of more formalized doctoral education programs. Some people talk of enrolled coursework in the first year of candidature leading to a Graduate Certificate in Research whereas others talk of a suite of required courses throughout candidature.

Within your Faculty there are varying views of the aims and content of these courses, let alone their structure. Some people are keen to include specialized high-level disciplinary knowledge, others focus more on research methodologies, and others on employability skills. Others feel strongly that it is the supervisor's role to work with individual candidates on the development of knowledge and skills.

In your REC role, you've decided to organise meeting of interested Faculty staff to discuss the issues. You seek advice from fellow RECs:

What sorts of courses (disciplinary, research or employability) and what structures (formal, informal, year 1 only, throughout candidature) would you suggest? Why?

If you had to develop these programs as part of your role how might you go about it?

Who would you enlist to help design, teach (and assess) doctoral programs?