

Preparing and signing your Success Plan: Silver linings for the Student

1. Helps you define each and every aspect of the bilateral relationship with your supervisor and clarify what is expected from both sides (mutual knowledge of the appropriate rules and regulations, initial planning and project follow-up, expected duration of the project, support guidelines, frequency of interactions, deliverables and schedule, research and living environments, project's financing);
2. Helps clarify the role and responsibilities of the research supervisor (and co-supervisor, if applicable) towards the research student so as to build a healthy relationship and prevent hardships or conflicts;
3. Gives you a better understanding/knowledge of the supervisor's personality, skills, management style, strengths and weaknesses. It paves the way for the supervising relationship to foster;
4. Allows you to be more specific about what the supervisor expects from you in terms of writing, autonomy, initiative, leadership, organization, creativity and teamwork commitment;
5. Allows you to maximize the chances of success in your research project and the chances of graduating within a reasonable time frame.
6. Allows you to avoid having important delays, experiencing a loss of interest, frustration, powerlessness or even failure because you didn't receive proper guidance/directions.
7. Allows you to map out the administrative and financial layouts, to save yourself from ending your project because of a lack of funds and even stop being supervised when agreed upon deliverables are met according to schedule/plan;
8. Helps you save some precious time. A few hours dedicated to put the project on the right track from the start could avoid you the hassle of long days to try to put it back on track once it has gone awry.
9. Allows you to customize the Success plan to your very own needs and project. The basic framework is flexible (frequency and nature of the follow-ups, deliverables, schedule, number and type of publishing contributions, expenses payback, conferences, part time work, etc.)
10. Enables you to avoid disagreements/misunderstandings that bring along tensions and conflicts which could ultimately result in complaints at the *Bureau du respect de la personne* (BRP), Students Services, International Relations Service or at the Dean of Studies Office.