



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

# MSCA 2020

Achieving More Together

Online Conference, 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2020

WS 1: Supervision in the MSCA and beyond – Perspectives of doctoral candidates

Jamie Rohu



**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn



# Jamie Rohu - Trinity College Dublin

**Thesis title: *Sustainable bogs: Challenges in transition***

- Year 4 PhD candidate in the Department of Geography
- Funded by the Irish Research Council
- Researching the transition of Irish industrial bogs as they move towards sustainable utilisation
- Investigating the drivers, enablers and expected outcomes for employees and communities

# Interactions with supervisor

## Application process, Year 1 & Year 2

- Ad-hoc meetings depending on student's needs and supervisor's availability
- Supervisor contactable via email
- Written work submitted in advance of meetings
- Notes taken by student during meeting, written up thereafter, emailed and subsequently agreed

# Interactions with supervisor

## Year 3

- Supervisor leaves university but continues to oversee research
- Co-supervisor appointed from student's university
- Meetings less frequent during data-collection phase and transcription process
- Covid-19 pandemic: Interactions move fully online

# Interactions with supervisor

## Year 4

- Increasingly structured supervisory approach begins
- Monthly written submissions
- Monthly Zoom meetings to discuss writing and next steps
- Increase in frequency of interactions towards end of programme expected

# Coping with challenges

## Dealing with problems during the doctoral programme

- Supervisor notified of issues when they arise
- Cooperative, proactive approach taken by both
- Supervisor assists student to resolve their own problems and reach their own conclusions
- Postgraduate coordinator available to mediate disagreements if they arise

# Recommendations to future supervisees

## Suggested approaches

- Take your time selecting a supervisor
- Ensure they are an expert in your area of inquiry
- Cooperation is key for a successful outcome
- Your supervisor is not your friend; neither are they your 'boss'
- Be patient with your supervisor – they are busy people!



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**Thank You**



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