

Defining expectations

Clarifying and redefining your role as a grad student

Explicit and implicit expectations

Explicit expectations are above the surface, clear, and easy to navigate. They can be found in the Student Handbook, McGill policies, Program requirements, and your LOU.

Check out our resource on LOUs

Implicit expectations are often hidden beneath the surface, the unspoken expectations that exist between you and your supervisor that would benefit from open and honest conversation.



Clarifying expectations can help you:

Some expectations you could discuss are:

- project timeline
- project format
- skills development
- professional development
- meeting schedule
- communication

Organize your time to more efficiently reach your goals.

Avoid potential misunderstandings, disappointments, and conflicts.

Plan rest and vacations into your schedule.

Communicate with your supervisor if you fall behind schedule.

Redefining expectations

Conversations about expectations are ongoing! You can and should routinely discuss your expectations and your progress with your supervisor.

Check out the [Supervision workshops](#) for more information and advice.

Many things will change over the course of your degree and these changes can affect your expectations and abilities, such as:

- family
- health
- motivation
- academic interests
- research goals
- job market expectations



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