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Postgraduate research training: A case of the South African doctoral consortium of universities

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: DOCTORAL STUDENTS' INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

A.

1. You are enrolled in the model of the Consortium of South African Universities; can you explain how you started your research training? .....
2. How has this model assisted you to undertake an independent and original research? .....
3. Is there a research culture in this model in which you are being trained, and are you part of that culture? ……..
4. What is the core curriculum of this model and how is it structured? …….
5. How do you get to choose your research topics? …….

6. How do you get to be supervised in your research work? ……
7. Describe the relationship that exists between you and your supervisor. Is it a relationship that can enhance your chances of completing the research task timeously? ……..

8. What opportunities are provided for you to network with other scholars in their field, nationally and internationally? ……..

9. Are you as students under the Consortium of South African Universities organized into communities of practice in which you can assist one another? ……..

10. Are you expected to publish your research during the course of your doctoral studies and after? ……..

11. Do you as a young researcher get an opportunity to present and publish with academic staff and or your supervisor? ……..

12. What are the advantages and disadvantages of co-publication from your own point of view? …….

13. Do you get opportunities to teach and at what level do you teach? ……..

C.

14. Do you have spaces and facilities that are provided for you as doctoral students and what are these facilities? ……..

15. When do you get to utilize these spaces and facilities, and how do these assist you in you research? ……..

D. Funding

16. Where do you get funding to pursue your research training?.....

17. Is it enough to cater for your research needs, if not how do you supplement it? …….

18. How long does it take to be sponsored for this program? ……

19. In your opinion, what needs to be done to improve the sponsorship, if need be?.....

APPENDIX 2: SUPERVISORS' INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

A. Program

1. What does the Consortium of South African Universities stand for? ……...
2. What characterizes the research-training model adopted for the Consortium of South African Universities? ……
3. What are its features and define its curriculum practices…….
4. How do you define core knowledge of this model? ……..
5. Do you have a course or some other organized experience that conveys this core knowledge? ……
6. If you have a course that defines this core – knowledge, how long does it take to complete and when do your students take it? …….
7. How many years have you been offering this course and would you say research training is improving, If yes, then what are the benchmarks that you use to examine this progress? ……
8. What would you consider to be benefits or achievements of this program?

9. Would you say that this has managed to attract a large number of students? If not, what do you consider to be the obstacles? ……..
10. What has been a difficult area of concern for your students? ……
11. What approaches to developing staff as researchers and supervisors exist across the Consortium?
12. Would you say, discipline-based courses or research method courses are important in research training? ……...
13. Do your students have an opportunity to present and publish with you? ….
14. What, in your opinion, are the advantages and disadvantages of co-publication? ……..
15. Do you give postgraduate students a chance to teach and at what level?..
16. Do you think they benefit from such an experience? ……
17. How would you describe a good supervisor? …….
18. Do you mentor your students in areas such as publishing, supervision, funding applications and research ethics so that they can become confident active researchers? …….

19. Do you provide your students with spaces and facilities necessary to carry out research training on a full time basis? ……
20. What are these facilities and when do they get to utilize them? ……..
21. In your opinion, are these helpful to enable your students to complete the research task? ……..

22. Who are the sponsors of the Consortium Programme?
23. What are the criteria used to award these sponsorships?
24. Do you think these sponsors need to improve or reduce their packages?

APPENDIX 3: CO-ORDINATORS INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. How does the program of the Consortium needs address students?
2. How do the Spencer fellowships work and under what conditions are they awarded?
3. What are the selection criteria for these fellowships?
4. Are students allowed to have other grants or scholarships while still benefiting from the Spencer Fellowships?
5. How should recipients of the fellowships behave themselves during their doctoral studies?
6. How has the Spencer Foundation influenced enrolments at your institutions?

7. In your opinion, have these fellowships helped to increase the student enrollment into the program of the Consortium? If not, what do you think is the problem?
8. When did the first group of Spencer fellows register for the doctoral program?
9. How many have managed to complete the programme?
10. What do you think are the causes of dropouts from this programme and how can that be improved?
11. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Consortium's doctoral programme?
12. What was the starting point of each member institution in terms of numbers of students and staff?
13. What is the situation now in terms of structure and numbers?
14. Has the programme contributed to the greater goal of equity and quality in education at higher level in South Africa? If so, how? If not, why?

15. Besides, the South African Universities in the Consortium, which other international institutions assist in the development of the Consortium?
16. In what ways are they giving assistance and what structures have you put in place to sustain this relationship?

17. As coordinators of the programme provided by the Consortium of South African Universities, how often do you meet to evaluate the nature of the programme?
18. In these times of economic uncertainties, will this programme be able to sustain itself for long enough?