



UNIVERSITY of the  
WESTERN CAPE

# DPGS: GRADUATE SCHOOL STRENGTHENING POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

## ENHANCING POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DHET AND NUFFIC

*DPGS Ensures for Enhanced Supervision Skills Development of 25 Novice Supervisors at UWC*



higher education  
& training

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"The opportunity to guide others to their fullest potential is an honor and one that should not be taken lightly.

As leaders, we hold the lives of others in our hands.

These hands need to be gentle and caring and always available for support."

-Ken Blanchard

The **Graduate School (DPGS)**, in partnership with **The DHET** and **Nuffic** (Netherlands organisation for international co-operation in higher education), and in collaboration with Staff Development, provided 25 staff-members with **Strengthening Postgraduate Supervision** training. Professor Holtman officially welcomed the participants and the universities of Rhodes and Kwazulu Natal facilitated the course. Prof Holtman continues the importance-of-research campaign through this course, by pointing the radar to enhancing postgraduate supervision. The course was presented in three phases. *The first phase three days 17 – 19 Aug: face-to-face facilitation with robust interaction between all the participants. The second phase 20 Aug-12 Sept: online course* underpinned by online tasks that had to be completed. *The tasks included critical thinking, engaging with institutional laws and policies and navigating the university website for information on postgraduate studies.* These tasks proved to enlighten and alert us to the challenges of supervision. *The third phase three days 13- 15 Sept: face-to-face* facilitation again filled with zealous debate on the various practices and the way forward on the most practical ways of supervising. Participants were very interested in the various practices and saw this as valuable information sharing. All in all the participants felt enriched and empowered with new knowledge on how to navigate the complex journey of supervision. The end of the course was signified by a reflective essay with a portfolio of evidence to be submitted. This is followed by an evaluation which gives rise to a certificate. The aim of the course is to grow the human resources needed to embellish postgraduate supervision. *Prof Holtman posits that she aspires for a holistic approach to strengthen our research and thereby keeping in theme with UWC's research vision.* Postgraduate students and staff should make contact with the DPGS for more information on this vision.

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[To Book for any of the Courses:](#)

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### Participant Quotes

"...It was amazing how soon the group settled down. Opening up, Sharing and trusting each other..."

"...Thorough and very good understanding of the content and the context of supervision and research...the facilitators were amazing..."

"...Opinions and experiences was very helpful..."