

2. THE ROLE OF THE SUPERVISOR

Your supervisor is neither an editor nor a co-author, but a mentor who will help you acquire the research skills needed to produce a dissertation.

Your supervisor's responsibilities include:

- Helping you to move from a broad interest to a specific, researchable topic.
- Advising on appropriate theoretical frameworks.
- Suggesting relevant critics and secondary sources to ensure your work is grounded in existing scholarship.
- Guiding you in producing a dissertation proposal, which should specify the literary work(s) you will analyse, define the critical/theoretical framework, identify the research's point of departure, and articulate the central thesis or objective.
- Helping you to structure your dissertation into a coherent sequence of parts.
- Holding regular tutorials to discuss the progression of your work.
- Reading and providing feedback on partial drafts and on the final version.
- Ensuring you understand how to use citation systems correctly and how to avoid plagiarism.

What is expected of you:

- **Maintain regular contact.** Keep your supervisor informed of your progress by email and ask for a tutorial when necessary. When you receive feedback, always write back, even if it is just to be polite and acknowledge receipt.
- **Take the initiative.** This is your dissertation. Do not wait for your supervisor to chase you.
- **Think of the process, not only the product.** Writing a dissertation is, by definition, gradual and collaborative: it involves two people working together consistently, not a supervisor coming to the rescue at short notice after a long period of inactivity. Losing contact for months and then reappearing shortly before the deadline with a nearly finished draft is strongly discouraged. Remember that the process itself counts towards your final mark.
- **Understand the limits of supervision.** Your supervisor's role is mentoring, while the technical execution remains your responsibility. They may help you to improve the flow, logic, and style of your writing, but correcting your spelling, grammar or typos is not part of their role. If they did, the final work would no longer reflect your actual writing ability.

- **Demonstrate research autonomy.** While your supervisor will provide initial guidance on key texts, you are expected to identify and incorporate additional secondary sources independently. A note of particular importance here: if you use AI tools to generate a bibliography and those tools misattribute quotations or fabricate sources that do not exist, this constitutes **falsification of data**, and will be treated as serious academic misconduct.
- **Plan your final submission carefully.** You are strongly advised to submit the final version of your dissertation to your supervisor at least two weeks before the official deadline (*fecha límite de depósito*). Having previously reviewed individual sections, your supervisor will at this stage conduct a complete reading of the dissertation as a whole. This final submission must include the cover page, abstract, table of contents, and full bibliography (Works Cited).