



# BROWN Graduate School *Forms*

## Advising Agreement Between Graduate Students and Faculty

Student name:

Date:

Program or Department:

Faculty Advisor:

### Graduate Student Commitment

I acknowledge that I have the primary responsibility for the successful completion of my degree. I will seek guidance from my faculty/research advisor, career counseling services, thesis/dissertation committee, other advisors and mentors, and any other resources available for advice on career plans. I pledge to do the following and will...

- Be committed to my graduate education and will demonstrate this by my efforts in the classroom and in research settings
- Maintain a high level of professionalism, self-motivation, engagement, curiosity, and ethical standards
- Meet regularly with my faculty/research advisor and provide him/her with updates on the progress and results of my activities and experiments
- Work with my faculty/research advisor to develop a thesis/dissertation project which will include establishing and maintain a timeline for each phase of my work
- Work with my faculty/research advisor to select a thesis/dissertation committee which I commit to meeting with regularly and be responsive to their advice and constructive criticism
- Be knowledgeable about and comply with all requirements of the policies of my graduate program, the Graduate School, and institution with both the letter and spirit
- (For use in relevant fields) Maintain a detailed, organized, and accurate record of my research as directed by my advisor; I am aware that my original notes and all tangible research data are the property of Brown University but that I am able to take a copy of my notebooks with me after I complete my thesis/dissertation
- Discuss policies on work hours, sick leave and vacation with my faculty/research advisor and notify any fellow research group members in advance of any planned absences
- Discuss policies on authorship and attendance at professional meetings with my faculty/research advisor
- Work with my advisor to submit all relevant research results that are ready for publication in a timely manner

### Faculty Advisor Commitment

I recognize the possibility of conflicts between the interests of my own larger research program and the particular research goals of the graduate student, and will not let my larger goals interfere with the student's pursuit of his/her thesis/dissertation research. I pledge to do the following and will...

- Be committed to mentoring the graduate student and to his/her education and training in an effort to prepare them as a future member of the scholarly community



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- Aim to provide for every graduate student under my supervision an environment that is intellectually stimulating, emotionally supportive, safe, and free of harassment
- Be supportive, equitable, accessible, encouraging, and respectful, and foster the graduate student's professional confidence and encourage critical thinking, skepticism and creativity
- Be committed to helping plan and direct the research project of the graduate student, set reasonable and attainable goals, and establish a timeline for completion
- Be committed to meeting with the student on a regular basis and provide resources as appropriate or according to Brown University guidelines, in order for him/her to conduct thesis/dissertation research
- Be knowledgeable about, and guide the graduate student through, the requirements and deadlines of his/her graduate program as well as those of the Brown University including teaching requirements and human resources guidelines
- Help the graduate student select a thesis/dissertation committee and ensure that this committee meets at least annually, or more frequently according to program guidelines, to review the graduate student's progress
- Facilitate the training of the graduate student in complementary skills needed to be a successful researcher; these may include oral and written communication skills, grant writing, lab management, animal and human research policies, the ethical conduct of research, and scientific professionalism
- Encourage the student to seek additional opportunities in career development training
- Discuss authorship policies regarding papers with the graduate student and acknowledge the graduate student's contributions to projects beyond his or her own, and work with the graduate student to publish his/her work in a timely manner
- Discuss intellectual policy issues with the student in regard to disclosure, patent rights and publishing research discoveries, when they are appropriate
- Encourage the graduate student to attend professional meetings and make an effort to help him/her secure funding for such activities
- Provide career advice and assist in finding a position for the graduate student following his/her graduation, while providing honest letters of recommendation for his/her next phase of professional development, and being accessible to give advice and feedback on career goals

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Graduate Student Name

Signature

Date

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Faculty Advisor Name

Signature

Date

*These guidelines are based on the "Mentoring Compact" published by the Graduate Research, Education and Training (GREAT) group of the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), on the IDP (Individual Development Plan) developed by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), on material developed by the National Postdoctoral Association, and on the Guide to Mentoring Graduate Students, published by the Rackham Graduate School at the University of Michigan. All material is adapted with permission.*