



Finding solutions to overcome barriers to effective dissertation supervision



Marjolaine Dey

Head of Dissertation Department,
CEESO Paris

+ Dissertation supervision

■ Previous study on barriers to dissertation supervision

→ Research methodology (including statistics)

→ Student interaction



+ Student-supervisor interaction

- **Management strategies – business strategy models**

- **Communication on process, implication and outcome**

- **Perception of dissertation**

- **Team-based learning: students from other years, groups within the same year**

- **Twice-monthly email « newsletter »**

- **Individual meetings with students and tutors on demand**



+ Monitoring progress...

- **Specific tools to help monitor supervisor-tutor interaction**

- **Internal/external examiner marking delta**

- **Overall marks/assessment**

- **Timing/deadlines**

- **Students presenting work in 1st session**

+ Results

■ ↓ delta between marks (1st session)

Delta	2011 n=45	2012 n=49	T-test
>3 points	42,2%	14,2%	p<0,01
2 to 3 points	39,8%	36,9%	p=0,4
<2 points	18%	48,9%	P<0,05



■ Overall assessment of dissertations in first session

Year	2011	2012	T-test
Average /20	14,0	13,8	p>0,5 not significant

+ Results

■ Deadlines

Hand in dates	2011	2012
Student: dissertation	12% n=52	0% n=48
Supervisor: assessment	20% n=20	0% n=18

■ Students not presenting work in 1st session

Year	2011 n=52	2012 n=48
Students	7	0
% students	13,5%	0%

+ Conclusion

- Overall marks were unchanged
- Interaction easier: ↓ delta, deadlines kept, students more likely to present work at first session
- Simple management techniques may help optimize student-supervisor interaction
- Minimal cost, minimal time
- Study needs larger group, over several years, compared with other cohorts
- Other solutions must be addressed



Thank you for your attention
mde@ceeso.com



Finding solutions to
overcome barriers to
effective dissertation
supervision



Marjolaine Dey

Head of Dissertation Department,
CEESO Paris