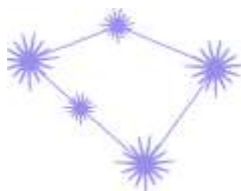


Postgraduate supervision at a distance

Dr Palitha Edirisingha (BDRA) and
Dr Ray Randall (Psychology)

With contributions from
Dr Tracy Simmons (Media & Communication) and
Dr Chris Comber (Education)

University of Leicester, England.



Supporting students through
the entire process of
postgraduate research ...

On campus

- Advisor
- Budweiser
- Apartment
- Department

At a distance

- Advisor
- Budweiser
- Apartment
- Department

Workshop objectives

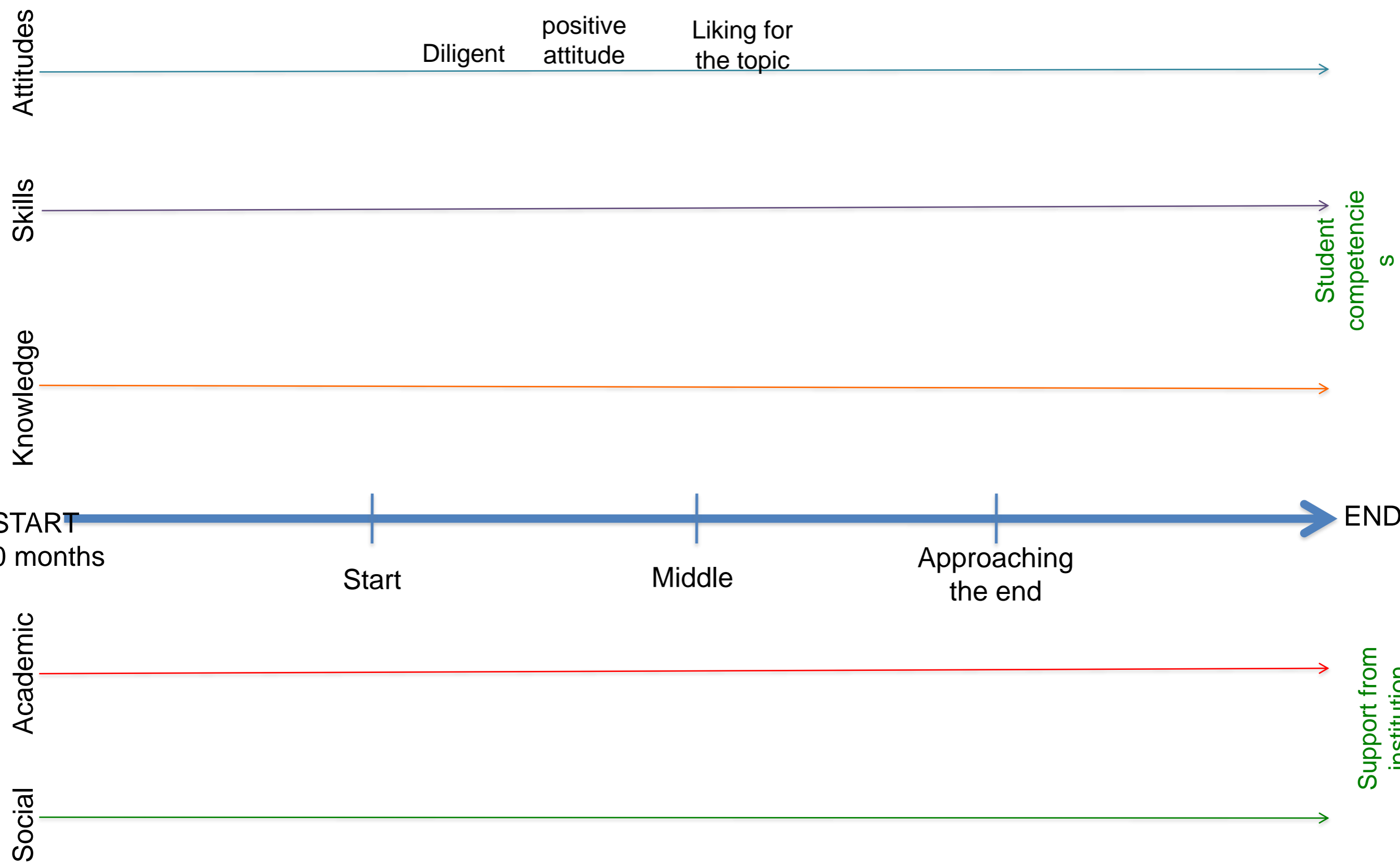
- Understand the milestones in supervising post-graduate research projects
- Identify the challenges of post-graduate supervision at a distance and approaches to addressing them
- Identify the key knowledge and skills areas that need to be developed by students
- Explore the useful resources available on the internet, and consider their usefulness
- Consider to harness the Internet and the Web for research
- Consider the need for a coherent package of DL PG tools.

Activity 1: A discovery session 1 [10 minutes]

My subject areas:	I have been supervising PGSs for X number of years!	The key challenges I face in supervising PGSs at a distance are:	My methodology expertise is in:	I am interested in (quantitative / qualitative / both) research	I can share the following my own resources and tools with the group:	I can share my list of references:	I know of the useful resources at:	Other?

Key points from Activity 1

Activity 2: Mapping the postgraduate research journey [15 minutes]



How the essential and desirable
KAP elements can be tackled – a
summary

Supervising at a distance - challenges

Taking students through the postgraduate research and writing journey, from beginning to a successful completion...

Doing all of these at a distance, possibly by yourself, and within many constraints!

Providing the right support and information at the right time (temporal nature of support needed)

Helping students to identify the key stages in their postgraduate research and writing, and help them acquire the knowledge and skills (e.g., developing researchable questions)

Temporal nature

- Different stages
- identifying and providing personalised (and group) advice and support according to the needs at different stages

Evidence from research: post graduate supervision at a distance

- Studies carried out at Unisa
- Studies in Australia

Tools and adapting them for Unisa

10.00 – 10.30am 5 Tools

Tool 1: Dissertation proposal form

Tool 2: Dissertation research planning tool

Tool 3: Dissertation research knowledge and skills audit

Tool 4: Dissertation writing progress tracking and diagnostic tool

Tool 5: Key knowledge areas and stages of postgraduate research study

Tea and coffee break
10.30am - 11.00am

Tool 1: dissertation proposal form

- An aid for the student to write the proposal
- An aid for the supervisor to identify students' gaps in key knowledge / conceptual areas
- Possible intervention points

Tool 2: Dissertation research planning tool

- An aid for the student
- A tool to get students to treat postgraduate research as a project, to manage as work packages (identify links between stages, phases and activities)
- An organisational tool
- A communication document
- A progress monitoring tool

Tool 3: Dissertation research knowledge and skills audit

- An aid for the student
- A communication document
- A progress monitoring tool

Tool 4: Dissertation writing progress tracking and diagnostic tool

- An aid for the student
- A communication document
- A progress monitoring tool

Tool 5: Key knowledge areas and stages of postgraduate research study

- An activity: getting students to sequence the activities and key stages of postgraduate research study
- As a diagnostic tool
- To develop intervention strategies

Activity 4: A discovery session on 'must know' and 'must-know-how-to'

- Ethics - 'risk management'
- Researchable questions
- Research design / methodology
- Literature review - criticality
- Interaction with academic community

Resources available on the Internet

(compiled by Dr Tracy Simmons, University of Leicester, UK)

Some resources and examples from the field:
ESCR guidance on methods research on-line

<http://www.geog.le.ac.uk/orm/>

<http://www.restore.ac.uk/orm/site/home.htm>

<http://www.restore.ac.uk/orm/tutorresources/resourcesindex.htm>

<http://www.methodspace.com/>

Exploiting Web 2.0

- A context for research (research questions)
- A source of resources (literature, on-line journals)
- An aid (for collaboration, for managing literature)
- Networking with research and practitioner community, feedback
- Dissemination

Some approaches for supporting postgraduates at a distance

Duckling project podcasts

a sample of podcasts are available at:

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/projects/oer/oers/psychology/psychology-oers>

BDRA doctoral research days

Three research days and their key features

Group tutorials at a distance using Adobe Connect

Anything that we can do together?

Take away lessons and way forward

- Developing a package of tools and resources for DL PG students and supervisors

Thank you for your participation...

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