



Professional boundaries and sexual harassment experienced by PGRs: staff training session

1 hour 15 mins

The term 'professional boundaries' denotes appropriate standards of behaviour by professionals in working with adult clients, patients or students (Cooper, 2012). However, in higher education shared understandings of appropriate boundaries are often lacking. At the same time, power imbalances between staff and PGRs create a context where sexual harassment and other abuses of power is more likely to occur; around 10% of women postgraduate students (including PGRs) are targeted for sexual harassment during their studies (Cantor et al, 2019; Australian Human Rights Commission, 2017).

The aims of this session are therefore:

- To reflect on shared understandings of professional boundaries within the School/department
- To ensure staff can recognise sexual harassment - including more subtle forms - and know how to support PGRs and colleagues to recognise/raise this

This session will include discussion of an anonymised case study, used with permission, of boundary-blurring behaviours in higher education. Related sessions are also available for HR and other staff with responsibility for responding to student reports of sexual misconduct, and for PGRs within the department/School.

The case study, along with details of how we will hold a safer space, will be shared a few days in advance of the session.

The session is delivered in-person. Please email contact@1752group.com to request up-to-date costings.