

Discussion Material for Newly Accepted PhD candidates and their Supervisors

The purpose of the form is to identify areas where the expectations on issues relevant for the PhD candidate and the supervisor on PhD studies may differ. The questionnaire shall be completed individually by both the PhD candidate and the supervisor. The PhD candidate and the supervisor arrange for a meeting where the answers in the forms are compared and discussed. This process may clarify different expectations with regards to the PhD education and may improve their collaboration.

All parties are encouraged to read the article "[Can we increase a mutual understanding between PhD students and their supervisors?](#)" by Aneta Wierzbicka, Yujing Li, Justyna Czemieli Berndtsson, Per-Olof Hedvall and Jenny Rissler (2014) before completing this form.

Name:.....

Instruction

Circle the answer that fits best with HOW YOU WANT IT TO BE. Answers 1 and 5 represent the extremes of the scale. Circle 3 if both alternatives are equally important.

General

The PhD is mainly seen as an:

1	2	3	4	5
Employment				education

The aim of a PhD is:

1	2	3	4	5
To write a Thesis				to become a competent researcher

State some other important goals with PhD education:

-
-
-

The supervisor

What form of supervision is one supposed to have mainly?

1	2	3	4	5
Spontaneous talks				booked appointment

How often will some type of supervision/discussion take place?

Daily	every week	every second week	every month	every 6 th month
-------	------------	-------------------	-------------	-----------------------------

Who should take the initiative for planning the supervisor/ PhD candidate discussions?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor				PhD candidate

How quickly is the supervisor expected to read the manuscript and respond?

1 day	2 days	3 days	1 week	2 weeks	1 month
-------	--------	--------	--------	---------	---------

Who is responsible for the Individual Study Plan?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor				PhD candidate

Research is to be done:

1	2	3	4	5
According to a schedule with strict deadlines				free from schedules and Deadlines

Who defines any possible deadlines?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor				PhD candidate

What kind of supportive/critical supervision is helpful to meet the needs of the candidate?

1	2	3	4	5
supportive				critical

Research

Who defines the original research?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor				PhD candidate

Who is the driving force in the research project (attending meetings making contacts etc)?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor				PhD candidate

Who is responsible for solving scientific problems?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor				PhD candidate

Who solves practical problems (equipment, analysis, logistics etc.)?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor				PhD candidate

Thesis

Who decides the contents of the Thesis?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor				PhD candidate

The PhD student can decide the type of thesis (monograph or compilation)?

1	2	3	4	5
To a low extent				to a high extent

The PhD student can decide the length of thesis (number of papers and chapters)?

1	2	3	4	5
To a low extent				to a high extent

How is the research work supposed to be done?

1	2	3	4	5
Alone				together with others

Publicizing/property rights etc.

Who has the right to the research results of the PhD candidate?

1	2	3	4	5
instit./Univ		supervisor		PhD candidate

Who has the right to publish the research results of the PhD?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor				PhD candidate

Publicizing of the PhD candidate material is supposed to be done:

1	2	3	4	5
Together with the supervisor and other colleagues				by the PhD candidate him/her self

Ethical questions affect the research:

1	2	3	4	5
To a low extent				to a high extent

Financing

Who applies for means for running project costs (materials, analysis etc)?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor /project leader				PhD candidate

Who applies for means to travel, to conferences and workshops etc?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor /project leader				PhD candidate

Working hours and vacation

Work hours:

1	2	3	4	5
Strict working hours				free working hours

Vacation:

1	2	3	4	5
strict vacation time (mainly July)				free vacation time

One should work more than usual working time:

1	2	3	4	5
Right				wrong

Courses

Who decides what courses the PhD candidate is to take?

1	2	3	4	5
PhD leader				PhD candidate

Courses are to be chosen:

1	2	3	4	5
In a narrow research area				over a wide field

Extras

Taking part in the department/institution's common scientific work (seminars/meetings etc.) is:

1	2	3	4	5
Unimportant				important

Mingling with other PhD candidates and researchers at the department/institution is:

1	2	3	4	5
Unimportant				important

Taking part in the common social activities in the department/institution (coffee breaks, discussions, parties etc) is:

1	2	3	4	5
Unimportant				important

Participating in national or international conferences is:

1	2	3	4	5
Unimportant				indispensable