Basis for discussion between supervisors and doctoral students

Doctoral student’s name: ...............................................
Supervisor’s name: ................................................
Supervisor’s name: ................................................
Date: ................................................

The purpose of this document is to provide a basis for discussions between supervisors and doctoral students, and to highlight any differences in expectations. The document is preferably completed by supervisors and doctoral students separately, and then discussed jointly. Similarities and differences in expectations may subsequently establish a foundation for an in-depth discussion. Depending on which stage of the programme the doctoral students find themselves, not all questions are equally relevant and should therefore be adjusted accordingly.

Instructions
Circle the option which you find best corresponds to how you think things SHOULD be. Circling one of the three options in the middle means that both ends of the scale are applicable but to different extents. For example, if you find both ends of the scale equally correct/important, circle the option in the middle.

1. My view of the third-cycle programme as a whole is that it is:
   1 2 3 4 5
   Employment Education

2. The aim of the third-cycle programme is to:
   1 2 3 4 5
   Write a thesis Acquire tools for becoming a researcher

3. Other important objectives of the third-cycle programme:
   ............................................................................................................................
   ............................................................................................................................
   ............................................................................................................................

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1 The document is based on a template developed by the Department of Political Science, Lund University, the University of Gothenburg, and Kristianstad University’s Research Platform for Collaboration for Health, 20 January 2017.
SUPERVISION

4. Supervision shall primarily take place in the form of:
1 2 3 4 5
Spontaneous discussions Scheduled meetings

5. In what areas, and to what extent, is the doctoral student expected to take initiatives and independent responsibility during the coming year? (incl. contact with supervisor)

6. How often should supervision take place?
Every week Every month Every quarter Every six months Every year

7. What roles are the different supervisors to have during the coming year?

8. Who initiates supervision?
1 2 3 4 5
Supervisors Doctoral student

9. How often should the doctoral student present new thesis-related text to the supervisors?
Every week Every month Every quarter Every six months Every year

10. How many work days should it reasonably take for the supervisors to give feedback on a manuscript or thesis-related text?
1 day 3 days 1 week 2 weeks 1 month

11. Research is to be conducted:
1 2 3 4 5
According to an established plan Freely with strict deadlines

12. Who sets the timetable and deadlines?
1 2 3 4 5
Supervisors Doctoral student
RESEARCH

13. Who is primarily responsible for the third-cycle project?
   1  2  3  4  5
   Supervisors  Doctoral student

14. Who is responsible for solving issues of research ethics?
   1  2  3  4  5
   Supervisors  Doctoral student

15. Who is responsible for solving scientific issues?
   1  2  3  4  5
   Supervisors  Doctoral student

16. Who is responsible for solving financial issues?
   1  2  3  4  5
   Supervisors  Doctoral student

17. Who decides which courses the doctoral student is to take?
   1  2  3  4  5
   Supervisors  Doctoral student

18. Who is responsible for the individual study plan?
   1  2  3  4  5
   Supervisors  Doctoral student

WORKING HOURS

19. The working hours are:
   1  2  3  4  5
   Fixed  Flexible

20. Attendance at the department is:
   1  2  3  4  5
   Mandatory  Optional

21. The scope of the full-time thesis project corresponds to:
    Less than 40 h/week  40 h/week  More than 40 h/week
TEACHING & COLLABORATION

22. The doctoral student is to teach:
   1  2  3  4  5
As little as possible                  As much as possible

23. The teaching is to:
   1  2  3  4  5
Be related to the research field      Be as broad as possible

24. Participation in research seminars is:
   1  2  3  4  5
Not important                        Important

25. Social interaction with other doctoral students and researchers is:
   1  2  3  4  5
Not important                        Important

DOCTORAL STUDENT’S FUTURE

26. When, on the programme, should you consider future career options?
   1  2  3  4  5
At an early stage                    Towards the end

27. What career paths are there?
   ..............................................................................................................................
   ..............................................................................................................................

WORK ENVIRONMENT

28. If differences in expectations between the doctoral student and the supervisors lead to conflict, how should this be handled? ........................................................
   ..............................................................................................................................

29. If the doctoral student experiences procrastination, stress or other ill health, how should this be handled? What role should the supervisor have?
   ..............................................................................................................................
   ..............................................................................................................................