

Basis for discussion in the introduction of newly admitted doctoral students¹

Name:

Date:

The aim of this document is to identify any areas of divergence in the expectations of the doctoral student and the supervisor with regard to research studies. It consists of a survey to be completed separately by both the doctoral student and the supervisors, with the specific doctoral student/research project in mind. Once the survey has been completed, the supervisors and the doctoral student meet to compare their answers, using the survey as a basis for a more in-depth discussion, chiefly of their differences but also of the similarities in their expectations. Differences should be resolved since they might create later disagreements.

Depending on which stage of the studies the doctoral students find themselves in, not all questions will be equally relevant and should therefore be adjusted accordingly.

Instructions

Circle the option that best corresponds to HOW YOU THINK THINGS SHOULD BE. The figures in between the two extremes indicate elements of both factors. For example, if you find both ends of the scale equally correct/important, circle the option in the middle.

General

My view of doctoral studies as a whole:

1	2	3	4	5
Employment				Education

The objective of doctoral studies:

1	2	3	4	5
To write a thesis				To become an independent researcher

Indicate some other important objectives of research studies:

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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

What form should supervision mainly take?

1	2	3	4	5
Spontaneous discussions				Pre-arranged/scheduled meetings

How often should some form of supervision/discussion take place?

Daily	Weekly	Every fortnight	Monthly	Annually	Ad-hoc
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Who should supervise?

The main supervisor	The main supervisor supported by assistant supervisors
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What roles should the different supervisors have during the coming year?

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Who takes the initiative for supervision?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisors				Doctoral student

How often should the doctoral student present their research progress to their supervisors?

Every week	Every fortnight	Every month	On demand
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How fast is it reasonable for the supervisor to give feedback?

1 day	a few days	1 week	2 weeks	1 month
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Who is responsible for the individual study plan?

1	2	3	4	5
The supervisor				The doctoral student

Research work should be done:

1	2	3	4	5
According to a fixed schedule with deadlines				Freely

If there are deadlines, who sets them?

1	2	3	4	5
The supervisor				The doctoral student

Research

Who defines the original PhD thesis project?

1	2	3	4	5
The supervisor				The doctoral student

Who is primarily responsible for the PhD thesis project?

1	2	3	4	5
The supervisor				The doctoral student

Who is responsible for solving scientific problems related to the PhD thesis project?

1	2	3	4	5
The supervisor				The doctoral student

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

1	2	3	4	5
The supervisor				The doctoral student

Who is responsible for respecting and following the standards of research ethics?

1	2	3	4	5
The supervisor				The doctoral student

The Thesis

Who decides on the structure of the thesis, including its form (compilation thesis or monograph)?

1	2	3	4	5
The supervisor				The doctoral student

Who decides that the thesis is ready to be defended (sufficient research results and a sufficient number of articles/papers):

1	2	3	4	5
The supervisor				The doctoral student

When should the requirements for completing the PhD studies be set out?

1	2	3	4	5
At the beginning of the studies				Just before the defense

How do you think the research work should and will be carried out?

1	2	3	4	5
individually				Together with others

What are the requirements to be a co-author of a publication?

- Finance the research
- Contribute scientifically
- Give feedback on a manuscript
- Other: ...

Who decides where to submit research results for publication?

1	2	3	4	5
The supervisor				The doctoral student

Who travels to present research results?

- The first author
- The supervisor
- The doctoral student
- Other:

Who applies for funding for travel to conferences, workshops, etc.?

- The first author
- The supervisor
- The doctoral student
- Don't know
- Other:

Use of Generative AI

Gen-AI is useful for the following tasks, related to doctoral research:

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I see the following risks of using Gen-AI in doctoral research:

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Gen-AI is inappropriate for the following tasks, related to doctoral research:

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Note that use of Gen-AI is regulated for most conferences/journals, and that all Doctoral/Licentiate theses at EECS have to include a declaration on if/how Gen-AI was used.

The Workplace

Access to a personal computer/telephone/fax etc.:

1	2	3	4	5
Should be ready at the workplace			Arranged by the doctoral student him/herself	

Work may be carried out elsewhere for certain periods (fieldwork, other study location, etc.):

1	2	3	4	5
Likely/desirable			Unlikely/undesirable	

Working Hours and Leave

Working hours:

1	2	3	4	5
Strict working hours				Flexible working hours

Working from...

1	2	3	4	5
Home only				Office only

Annual leave:

1	2	3	4	5
Set leave (taken mainly in July)				Leave taken freely

Working longer than normal working hours:

1	2	3	4	5
Right				Wrong

Courses

Who decides which courses the doctoral student takes?

1	2	3	4	5
The supervisor				The doctoral student

The courses to be chosen:

1	2	3	4	5
Narrowly within the area of research				Broadly within the entire subject area

Teaching

The doctoral student should teach:

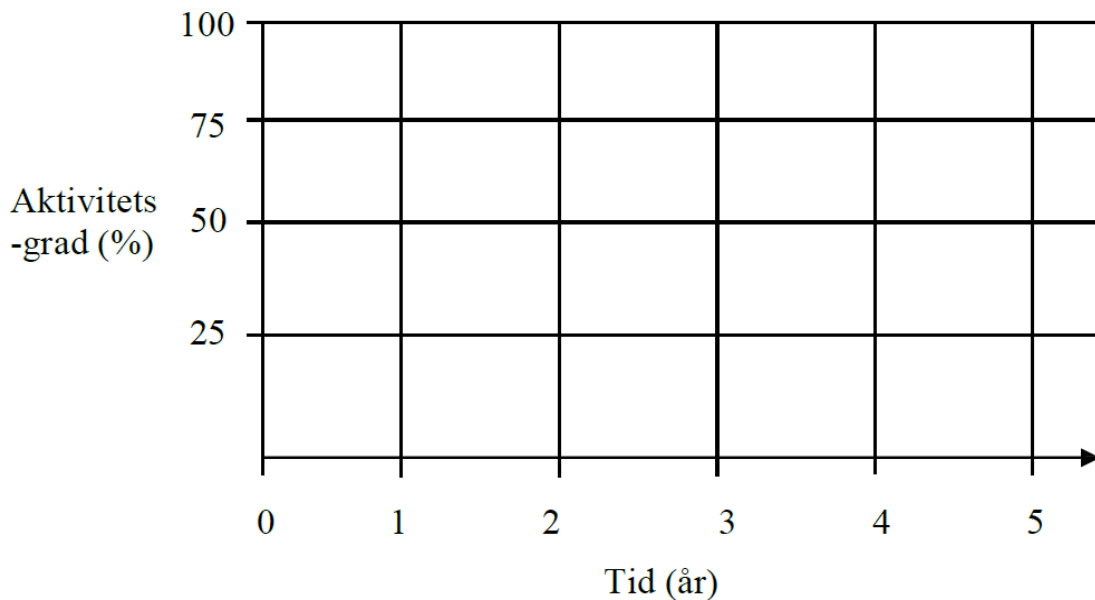
1	2	3	4	5
As little as possible			As much as possible	

Content of teaching:

1	2	3	4	5
Narrowly restricted to the area of research				Broadly chosen from the entire subject

Distribution of Activities Over Time

Draw three curves in the diagram below to represent how you think the degree of activity within the three areas of research, theoretical study (courses) and teaching should be distributed over your years as a doctoral student:



Use different symbols for the three curves.

Other

Taking part in the common scholarly activities of the department/division (seminars, meetings, etc)
is:

1	2	3	4	5
Unimportant				Important

Socializing with other doctoral students and researchers at the department/division is:

1	2	3	4	5
Unimportant				Important

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

1 2 3 4 5

Unimportant Important

The Doctoral Student's Future

At which point during PhD studies should the student start considering future career options?

1	2	3	4	5
At an early stage			Towards the end	

What career paths are there after graduation?

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Work Environment

If a difference in expectations between the doctoral student and the supervisor leads to conflict, how should this be handled?

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

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