

# 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 lesson 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<sup>th</sup> month

**Who should be supervising?**

One supervisor	one supervisor together with one or more co supervisor
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**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

## 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

## Thesis

**Who decides the contents of the Thesis?**

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor				PhD candidate

## Publicizing/property rights etc

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

1	2	3	4	5
institut./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

## Workplace

**Access to computer phone fax etc.:**

1	2	3	4	5
Should be at the workplace				PhD candidate should fix themselves

**The work can temporary be placed on other location (different lab, field studies different city etc)**

1	2	3	4	5
Agree				do not agree

## 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                      free vacation time  
(mainly July)

**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  
Supervisor                      PhD candidate

**Courses are to be chosen:**

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

**Teaching**

**The PhD candidate is to teach:**

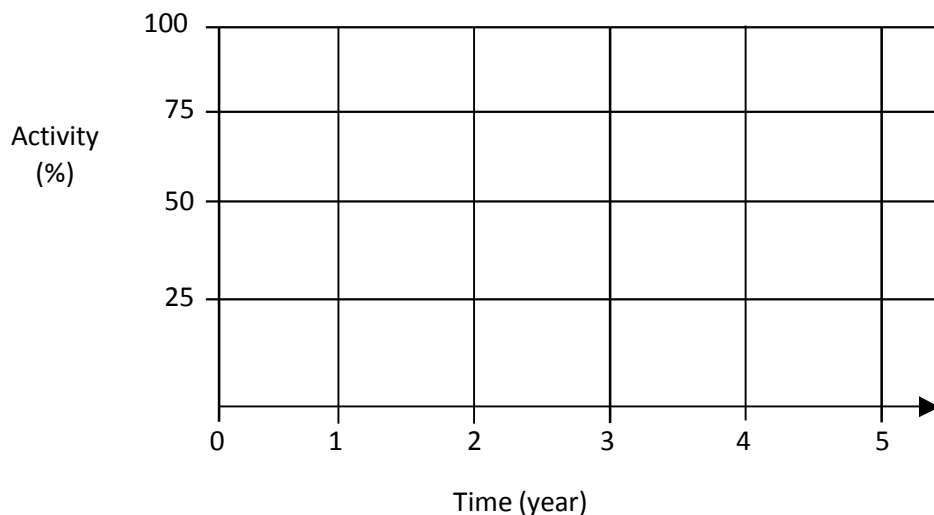
1                      2                      3                      4                      5  
As little as                      as much as  
possible                      possible

**The content of the teaching should be:**

1                      2                      3                      4                      5  
In one's                      over a wide  
research field                      field

## Time spent on different areas

Draw three curves in the diagram below to state how the activity in the three areas **research**, **theory (courses)** and **teaching** should be for the different years as a PhD candidate:



Use different symbols for the three curves.

## 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