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 Czemiel 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 to become a competent researcher
Thesis

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 6th month

Who should be supervising?
One supervisor one supervisor together with one or more co supervisor

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
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 by the PhD candidate
the supervisor and him/her self
other colleagues

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

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

1 2 3 4 5
Supervisor /project leader

Workplace

*Access to computer phone fax etc.:*

1 2 3 4 5
Should be at the workplace

*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 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
Supervisor PhD candidate

Courses are to be chosen:

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

**Teaching**

The PhD candidate is to teach:

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

The content of the teaching should be:

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

![Diagram showing activity over time](image)

Use different symbols for the three curves.

**Extras**

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

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

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

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