

Discussion Material for Newly Accepted PhD students and their Supervisors

Name:

The purpose with this material is to identify areas where the expectations of the PhD student and the supervisor on the PhD studies differ. It is a questionnaire that is done separately and with the focus on supervisor-PhD student relationship. Afterwards the answers are compared and form the base for discussions about the differences and the similarities. The different expectations will also be discussed.

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

1) The PhD is mainly seen as an:

Employment					Education
1	2	3	4	5	

2) The aim of a PhD is:

To write a thesis					To become a competent researcher
1	2	3	4	5	

The supervisor

3) What form of supervision is one supposed to have mainly?

Spontaneous talks					Booked appointments
1	2	3	4	5	

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

Daily	Every week	Every 2 nd week	Every month	Every 6 th month
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5) Who should be supervising?

One supervisor	One supervisor together with one more co supervisor
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6) Who should take the initiative for planning the supervisor/PhD student discussions?

Supervisor					PhD student
1	2	3	4	5	

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

One day	2 days	3 days	1 week	2 week	1 month
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8) Who is responsible for the Individual Study Plan?

Supervisor					PhD student
1	2	3	4	5	

9) Research is to be done:

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

10) Who defines any possible deadlines?

Supervisor					PhD student
1	2	3	4	5	

Research

11) Who defines the original research?

Supervisor					PhD student
1	2	3	4	5	

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

Supervisor					PhD student
1	2	3	4	5	

13) Who is responsible for solving scientific problems?

Supervisor					PhD student
1	2	3	4	5	

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

Supervisor					PhD student
1	2	3	4	5	

Thesis

15) Who decides the contents of the Thesis?

Supervisor					PhD student
1	2	3	4	5	

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

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

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

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

18) How is the research work supposed to be done?

Alone					Together with others
1	2	3	4	5	

Publicizing/property rights etc

19) Who has the right to the research results of the PhD student?

Department/Uni.			Supervisor		PhD Student
1	2	3	4	5	

20) Who has the right to publish the research results of the PhD student?

Supervisor					PhD Student
1	2	3	4	5	

21) Publicizing of the PhD student material is supposed to be done:

Together with supervisor and other colleagues					by the PhD student herself/himself
1	2	3	4	5	

22) Ethical questions affect the research

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

Financing

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

Supervisor/project leader					PhD Student
1	2	3	4	5	

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

Supervisor/project leader					PhD Student
1	2	3	4	5	

Workplace

25) Access to computer, phone, printer etc.

Should be at the workplace

1 2 3 4

PhD student should fix themselves

5

26) The work can temporarily be placed on other location (different lab, field studies, different city)

Agree

1 2 3 4

Do not agree

5

Working hours and vacation

27) Working hours

Strict working hours

1 2 3 4

Free working hours

5

28) Vacation

Strict vacation time (mainly July)

1 2 3 4

Free vacation time

5

29) One should work more than usual working time

Right

1 2 3 4

Wrong

5

Courses

30) Who decides what courses the PhD Student is to take?

Supervisor

1 2 3 4

PhD Student

5

31) Courses are to chosen

in a narrow research area

1 2 3 4

over a wide field

5

Teaching

32) The PhD student is to teach

As little as possible

1 2 3 4

As much as possible

5

33) The content of the teaching should be

In one's research field

1 2 3 4

over a wide field

5

Time spent on different areas

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

Use different symbols for the three curves.



Extra

34) Taking part in the department's common scientific work (seminars, meeting etc.) is:

Unimportant Important
1 2 3 4 5

35) Mingling with other PhD students and researchers at the department is:

Unimportant Important
1 2 3 4 5

36) Taking part in the common social activities at the department (coffee breaks, discussions, parties etc.) is:

Unimportant Important
1 2 3 4 5