

This document is presented with a few modifications to the [original work](#) of Johan Bijmens at Lund University, Sweden.

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 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 th 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?

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 and extent of the Thesis?

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor				PhD candidate

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

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

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

1	2	3	4	5
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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

Publicizing/property rights etc.

Be aware that this topic is regulated by the employment agreement for candidates employed by the University. For candidates with other employer this may be described in various ways in their contract. It is important that both supervisor and candidate agree on the following questions AND that this agreement is in line with the contracts. You may read more about the topic here at:

- <https://www.uio.no/for-ansatte/ansettelsesforhold/arbeidsresultater/>
- <https://www.uio.no/om/regelverk/forskning/immaterielle-rettigheter/uio-politikk-for-handtering-av-immaterielle-rettigheter.pdf>

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

1	2	3	4	5
Dept./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 decides how the financial resources connected to the PhD project are managed

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisor /project leader				PhD candidate

Who decide which and how many conferences and workshops the candidate should participate on?

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

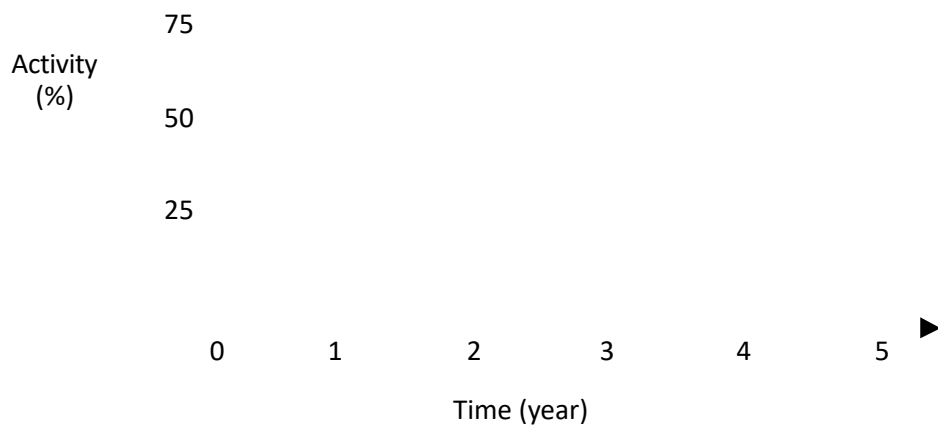
Courses are to be chosen:

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

Time spent on different areas

Place the letters R, T, M* for each year in the diagram below to state how the activity in the three areas **research (R)**, **theory (courses; T)** and **mandatory work (M; only for candidates who have 25% mandatory work / 4 year contract)** should be for the different years as a PhD candidate.

100



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

Science outreach is activity related to promoting public awareness and understanding of science
Science outreach is:

1 2 3 4 5
Unimportant important