This document is presented only with minor modifications to the [original work](http://home.thep.lu.se/%7Ebijnens/introduction/introduction/startdiscuss_eng.pdf) of Johan Bijnens 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](http://www.lth.se/fileadmin/lth/genombrottet/konferens2014/53_Wierzbicka_etal.pdf) [students and their supervisors?](http://www.lth.se/fileadmin/lth/genombrottet/konferens2014/53_Wierzbicka_etal.pdf)” 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  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 booked

talks 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 |  |  |  | free from  schedules and |
| strict deadlines |  |  |  | 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/propertyrights 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 PhD candidate

/project leader

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

1 2 3 4 5

Supervisor PhD candidate

/project leader

# 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 free

working hours 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:

100

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Activity (%)

75

50

25

0 1 2 3 4 5

Time (year)

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 |