



FACULTY  
OF SOCIAL  
SCIENCES

Basis for discussion between  
supervisors and doctoral students

Date 2017-10-12

Department of Political Science

## **Basis for discussion between supervisors and doctoral students<sup>1</sup>**

Doctoral student's name: .....

Supervisor's name: .....

Supervisor's name: .....

Date: .....

The purpose of this document is to provide a basis for discussions between supervisors and doctoral students, and to highlight any differences in expectations. The document can be completed by supervisors and doctoral students separately, and then be discussed jointly. Similarities and differences in expectations may subsequently establish a foundation for an in-depth discussion. Depending on which stage of the programme the doctoral students find themselves, not all questions will be equally relevant and should therefore be adjusted accordingly.

### **Instructions**

Circle the option which you find best corresponds to how you think things SHOULD be. Circling one of the three options in the middle means that both ends of the scale are applicable but to different extents. For example, if you find both ends of the scale equally correct/important, circle the option in the middle.

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<sup>1</sup> The document is based on the University of Gothenburg's "Basis for discussion in the introduction of newly admitted doctoral students", and Kristianstad University's Research Platform for Collaboration for Health, 20 January 2017.

**1. My view of the third-cycle programme as a whole is that it is:**

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

employment

education

**2. The aim of the third-cycle programme is to:**

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

write a  
thesis

acquire  
tools for  
becoming a  
researcher

**3. Other important objectives of the third-cycle programme:**

.....  
.....

Supervision

**4. Supervision shall primarily take place in the form of:**

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

spontaneous  
discussions

scheduled  
meetings

**5. In what areas, and to what extent, is the doctoral student expected to take initiatives and independent responsibility during the coming year? (incl. contact with supervisor)**

.....  
.....

**6. How often should supervision take place?**

Every week	Every month	Every quarter	Every six months	Every year
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**7. What roles are the different supervisors to have during the coming year?**

.....

.....

**8. Who initiates supervision?**

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisors				Doctoral student

**9. How often should the doctoral student present new thesis-related text to their supervisors?**

Every week	Every month	Every quarter	Every six months	Every year
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**10. How many days should it reasonably take for the supervisors to give feedback on a manuscript or thesis-related text?**

1 day	3 days	1 week	2 weeks	1 month
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**11. Research is to be conducted:**

1	2	3	4	5
according to an established plan				freely with strict deadlines

**12. Who sets the timetable and deadlines?**

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisors				Doctoral student

## Research

**13. Who is primarily responsible for the third-cycle project?**

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisors				Doctoral student

**14. Who is responsible for solving issues of research ethics?**

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisors				Doctoral student

**15. Who is responsible for solving scientific issues?**

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisors				Doctoral student

**16. Who is responsible for solving financial issues?**

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisors				Doctoral student

**17. Who decides which courses the doctoral student is to take?**

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisors				Doctoral student

**18. Who is responsible for the individual study plan?**

1	2	3	4	5
Supervisors				Doctoral student

## Working hours

**19. The working hours are:**

1	2	3	4	5
Fixed				Flexible

**20. Attendance at the department is:**

1	2	3	4	5
Mandatory				Optional

**21. The scope of the full-time thesis project corresponds to:**

Less than 40 hours/week	40 hours/week	More than 40 hours/week
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## Teaching &amp; collaboration

**22. The doctoral student is to teach:**

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

**23. The teaching is to:**

1	2	3	4	5
Be related to the research field				Be as broad as possible

**24. Participation in research seminars is:**

1	2	3	4	5
Not important				Important

**25. Social interaction with other doctoral students and researchers is:**

1	2	3	4	5
Not important				Important

## Doctoral student's future

**26. When, on the programme, should you consider future career options?**

1	2	3	4	5
At an early stage				Towards the end

**27. What career paths are there?**

.....  
.....

Work environment

**28. If a difference in expectations between the doctoral student and the supervisor leads to conflict, how should this be handled?**

.....  
.....

**29. If the doctoral student experiences procrastination, stress or other ill health, how should this be handled? What role should the supervisor have?**

.....  
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