Lund University

Department of Political Science

12 October 2017

**Basis for discussion between supervisors and doctoral students[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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.

**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

**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

**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

**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 h/week 40 h/week more than 40 h/week



TEACHING & 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?**

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WORK ENVIRONMENT

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

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

1. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)