This document is based on 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 enrolled PhD candidates and their supervisors

PhD candidates and their supervisor(s) are recommended to complete this questionnaire separately, and then compare and discuss their respective answers. The purpose of the form is to identify areas where the expectations on issues relevant for the PhD studies may differ. This may clarify conflicting expectations with regards to the PhD education and may improve the collaboration between candidate and supervisor(s).

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 best matches your expectations and preferences. 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 |

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

# Research

Who defines the research topic?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Supervisor |  |  |  | PhD candidate |

Who should establish theoretical and methodological framework for the thesis?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Supervisor |  |  |  | PhD candidate |

Who is responsible for solving scientific problems?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Supervisor |  |  |  | PhD candidate |

Who should solve practical problems (equipment, analysis, logistics etc.)?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Supervisor |  |  |  | PhD candidate |

Ethical questions affect the research:

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

# Thesis

The form of the thesis

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| X |  |  |  | X |
| Article-based |  |  |  | monography |

The language of the thesis

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| X |  | X |  | X |
| Norwegian |  | Other (please specify) |  | English |

Who decides the contents of the thesis?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Supervisor |  |  |  | PhD candidate |

Who is responsible for the standard of the final thesis?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Supervisor |  |  |  | PhD candidate |

# Supervision

A supervisor should be seen as

1 2 3 4 5

An authoritative figure a colleague

What form of supervision is one supposed to have mainly?

1 2 3 4 5

Spontaneous booked

talks appointment

How often will supervision/discussions take place?

Daily every week every second week every month every 3rd month

Who should take the initiative for planning the supervisor / PhD candidate discussions?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Supervisor |  |  |  | PhD candidate |

Plans and deadlines should be

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Strictly adhered to |  |  |  | seen as guidelines |

Who defines any possible deadlines?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Supervisor |  |  |  | PhD candidate |

# Writing and feedback

A supervisor should correct style, grammar and spelling as well as content

1 2 3 4 5

Correct wrong

How quickly is the supervisor expected to read and respond to submitted manuscripts?

1 day 3 days 1 week 2 weeks 1 month

Feedback should be given

1 2 3 4 5

Honestly, even when very critical Feedback should be adjusted

# Academic training and the academic environment

Who should identify relevant courses and conferences for the PhD candidate?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Supervisor |  |  |  | PhD candidate |

Academic conferences should be attended:

1 2 3 4 5

Together with the supervisor Independently by the PhD candidate

Who is responsible for introducing the candidate to a scientific network at HVL, nationally and internationally?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Supervisor |  |  |  | PhD candidate |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

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 |