Basis for discussion in the introduction of newly admitted doctoral students

Name: ................................................

The aim of this documentation is to identify any areas of divergence in the expectations of the doctoral student and the supervisor with regard to research studies. It consists of a survey to be completed separately by both the doctoral student and the supervisor, with the specific doctoral student/research project in mind. Once the survey has been completed, the supervisor and the doctoral student meet to compare their answers, using the survey as a basis for a more in-depth discussion, chiefly of their differences but also of the similarities in their expectations.

Instructions

Circle the option that best corresponds to HOW YOU THINK THINGS SHOULD BE. The figures in between the two extremes indicate elements of both factors. For example, choose 3 if you think that both alternatives are equally important.

In general

*My view of doctoral studies as a whole:*

1 employment
2 3 4 5 education

*The aim of doctoral studies:*

1 to write a thesis
2 3 4 5 to become a skilled geologist/researcher

*Indicate some other important aims of research studies:*

Supervision

*What form should supervision mainly take?*

1 spontaneous discussions
2 3 4 5 pre-arranged meetings
How often should some form of supervision/discussion take place?

daily  weekly  every fortnight  monthly  every 6 months

Who should supervise?

A main supervisor  A main supervisor supported by one or more assistant supervisors

Who takes the initiative for supervision?

1  2  3  4  5
the supervisor  the doctoral student

How fast is it reasonable for the supervisor to give feedback on a manuscript?

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
the supervisor  the doctoral student

Research work should be done:

1  2  3  4  5
according to a fixed schedule with strict deadlines freely

If there are deadlines, who sets them?

1  2  3  4  5
the supervisor  the doctoral student

Research

Who defines the original research project?

1  2  3  4  5
the supervisor  the doctoral student

Who runs the research project (attends meetings, makes contacts, etc.)?

1  2  3  4  5
the supervisor  the doctoral student
Who is responsible for solving scientific problems?
1 2 3 4 5
the supervisor the doctoral student

Who solves practical problems (equipment, field work, logistics, etc.)?
1 2 3 4 5
the supervisor the doctoral student

The thesis

Who decides on the contents of the thesis?
1 2 3 4 5
the supervisor the doctoral student

The doctoral student can decide on the form of the thesis (compilation thesis or monograph):
1 2 3 4 5
to a low degree to a high degree

The doctoral student can decide on the length of the thesis (number of articles or chapters):
1 2 3 4 5
to a low degree to a high degree

How do you think the research work should and will be carried out?
1 2 3 4 5
independently together with others

Publication/copyright etc.

Who owns the rights to the research findings of the doctoral student?
1 2 3 4 5
The dept/University the supervisor the doctoral student

Who has the right to publish the doctoral student’s research findings?
1 2 3 4 5
the supervisor the doctoral student
The doctoral student’s material should be published:
1  2  3  4  5
together with the by the doctoral student him/herself supervisor/other colleagues

Ethical issues affect research:
1  2  3  4  5
to a low degree to a high degree

Funding

Who applies for funding for ongoing project costs (material, field work, etc.)?
1  2  3  4  5
the project director/supervisor the doctoral student

Who applies for funding for travel to conferences, workshops, etc.?
1  2  3  4  5
the project director/supervisor the doctoral student

The workplace

Access to a personal computer/telephone/fax etc.:
1  2  3  4  5
should be ready at the workplace arranged by the doctoral student him/herself

Work may be carried out elsewhere for certain periods (fieldwork, other study location, etc.):
1  2  3  4  5
Likely/desirable Unlikely/undesirable

Working hours/leave

Working hours:
1  2  3  4  5
strict working hours flexible working hours
Annual leave:
1 2 3 4 5
set leave (taken mainly in July) leave taken freely

Working longer than normal working hours:
1 2 3 4 5
right wrong

Courses

Who decides which courses the doctoral student should attend?
1 2 3 4 5
the supervisor the doctoral student

The courses are to be chosen:
1 2 3 4 5
narrowly within the area of research broadly within the entire subject area

Teaching

The doctoral student should teach:
1 2 3 4 5
as little as possible as much as possible

Content of teaching:
1 2 3 4 5
narrowly restricted to the area of research broadly chosen from the entire subject area

Distribution of activities over time

Draw three curves in the diagram below to represent how you think the degree of activity within the three areas of research, theoretical study (courses) and teaching should be distributed over your years as a doctoral student:

[DIAGRAM]

Degree of activity (%)

Time (years)

Use different symbols for the three curves.
Other

*Taking part in the common scholarly activities of the department/division (seminars, meetings, etc) is:*

1  2  3  4  5
unimportant    important

*Socialising with other doctoral students and researchers at the department/division is:*

1  2  3  4  5
unimportant    important

*Taking part in the common social activities of the department/division (coffee breaks, parties, discussions, etc.) is:*

1  2  3  4  5
unimportant    important