Course information
SUPERVISING PHD STUDENTS

Do you think it would be exciting to get together with PhD supervisors from different disciplines and fields of research at Uppsala University to share ideas on supervision practice?

Do you experience difficulties in achieving good supervisor/student understandings and sharing agreements formally and informally speaking?

Would you like your PhD students to produce good PhD theses on time?

If so, we can recommend this course.

Target group
Post-doctorates (fellowships) with no or less experience of supervising PhD students; new or senior lecturers holding a PhD degree, as well as readers/docents with some or lots of PhD supervising experience.

Number of participants limited to 24. Selection will be made using different criteria (such as, e.g., spread of departmental affiliation, participant’s previous supervising experience).

Content

• The interaction between supervisor and research student: `drawing up a contract´ (rights and obligations), the research tutorial, conflict management, different situations in supervising, to give feedback.

• What does the regulatory framework stating the conditions for current research education in Sweden look like? What changes of the supervisory context for supervisors and research students may be identified? What criteria for assessment should be met in a senior lecturer/reader appointment; and how do you make preparations for such an appointment?

• How can gender- and ethnicity-related opinions and attitudes influence the supervisor and doctoral student in the supervising process? What is stated about equality in the regulatory framework for higher education? How do problems pertaining to these issues arise in practice?

• What ethical statements should the PhD supervisor and the research student depart from? How are both parties expected to act and relate themselves to each other in a professional way?

• The communicative perspectives of the research student and the PhD supervisor: the long journey from being accepted as a PhD student to the final defence of the dissertation (the stages of PhD career building and the roles of the supervisor).
Extent

A total of three weeks on a full-time basis, comprising 7 days in class divided into four occasions (3 + 2 + 1 + 1) and 8 days out of class for homework assignments.

Course Goals

By the end of the course, we expect you to be able to:

- Identify, critically reflect on and independently assess the aims and the design of current research education in the light of historic, national and international perspectives, as well as legal matters.
- Analyse and display in theory and practice your understanding for the supervisor-PhD student relationship and the dynamic character of supervising meetings, with considerations taken to ethnic, ethical and gender-related aspects.
- Benefit, in terms of growth and support, from the communicative and situated training offered for approaching different supervising situations.
- Make a written statement on your own philosophy of supervision, e.g., discussing and sharing what, in your opinion, makes for good PhD supervision.
- Reflect on the ideas of research education at your own department/division and, if possible, to identify a supervision policy formally/informally agreed upon.
- Design an individual action plan using the statement made on your philosophy of supervision and the ideas of your department/division on research education and PhD supervision.

Teaching Activities

The course is to a large extent founded on the participants’ own willingness to describe and share their personal experiences using either the perspective of the PhD supervisor or research student. Shorter lectures are therefore intermixed with applied exercises (role play, case studies) and small-group discussions. The language of instruction is English.

Homework Assignments

Individual design of a case (vignette) which you would find worthwhile discussing and using as a point of departure for sharing your own experience of PhD supervision, either as a research student or supervisor, in Sweden or elsewhere.

In a written form, reflecting on and discussing free-choice literature with the aim of broadening and deepening your knowledge.

In a written form, stating your own philosophy of supervision as well as the ideas of what research education and PhD supervision are and should be about in terms of policy at your own department/division.

Observation at a supervising meeting involving a supervisor and his/her research student, with follow-up and discussion afterwards in the training course.
To learn best, and in order to receive the certificate of completion, the participants are expected to attend class every scheduled day, to act as an observer at a supervising meeting and to complete the homework assignments given.

**Course Period**

For more information about dates and applications see Medarbetarportalen.

The course will be held in Campus Blåsenhus. Room and the names of the trainers will be announced in the notification.

**Financial Conditions**

The course is free of charge for staff members affiliated with Uppsala University.

**More information**

Division for Quality Enhancement

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