Questionnaire for alumni from PhD education

BACKGROUND

1. Gender
   □ Woman □ Man □ Other

2. Age (years)
   □ 30 or younger □ 31–40 □ 41–50 □ 51–60 □ 61 or older

3. At which Faculty were you a PhD student?
   □ Arts □ Theology □ Pharmacy
   □ Languages □ Law □ Science and Technology
   □ Social Sciences □ Medicine □ Educational Sciences

4 a. At which Department (or equivalent) were you a PhD student?
________________________________________________________________________________

b. If you were a PhD student at the Faculty of Science and Technology, specify the programme or unit:
________________________________________________________________________________

5. Where did you take the degree that made you eligible for postgraduate studies/research training?
   □ Uppsala University
   □ Other higher education institution in Sweden. Name: _______________________________________
   □ A higher education institution outside Sweden. Country: ________________________________

6. In which year were you admitted to PhD education?
   □ 2000 □ 2001 □ 2002 □ 2003 □ 2004
   □ 2005 □ 2006 □ 2007 □ 2008 □ Other year: _____________

7. In which year did you complete your doctorate?
   □ 2007 □ 2008 □ 2009 □ 2010 □ 2011 □ 2012 □ Other year: _____________

8. Did you pursue your postgraduate studies within the framework of a doctoral school (i.e. a programme of PhD education with organisational coherence and with a common course programme for its PhD students, often run by several higher education institutions or departments jointly)?
   □ Yes, a national doctoral school
   □ Yes, another doctoral school, i.e. ______________________________
   □ No □ Don’t know
EMPLOYMENT MARKET AND CURRENT JOB

If you have a job but are on parental leave, leave of absence, sick leave, holiday etc., answer the questions below with reference to when you were last working.

9. What is your current main occupation?
   - Gainfully employed, full-time
   - Gainfully employed, part-time
   - Business owner
   - Jobseeker → Go to question 25
   - Other, i.e.: __________________________________________________________________________

10. In which sector of the employment market do you work at present?
   - Higher education institution
   - Public sector (not higher education institution), e.g. central government, municipalities and county councils
   - Private sector (not higher education institution)
   - Non-profit organisation
   - International agency or organisation
   - Other, i.e.: __________________________________________________________________________

11. What form of employment are you mainly working in at present?
   - Permanent job (but not business owner)
   - Time-limited qualifying position: Research fellow, assistant lecturer or postdoctoral researcher
   - Business owner
   - Time-limited employment: more than six months
   - Time-limited employment: up to six months
   - Other form of employment, i.e.: __________________________________________________________

12. Where do you work?
   - In Sweden
   - Outside Sweden. Country: ______________________________

13. Do you currently work entirely or partly in a higher education institution?
   - No → Go to question 14
   - Yes, I work at ... Uppsala University ... Other higher education institution

14 a. Is research part of your present job?
   - Yes
   - No

   b. If so, about how much of your job consists of research?
   - about 25% or less
   - about 26–50%
15. How well do your work tasks match your level of education?
I think my work tasks in my current job are:

- [ ] Too unskilled
- [ ] A bit too unskilled
- [ ] At the same skill level as my education
- [ ] A bit too skilled
- [ ] Too skilled

16. Do you have managerial functions, with responsibility for directing and distributing other people's work, in your current job?
- [ ] No
- [ ] Yes, for up to 10 people
- [ ] Yes, for 11–50 people
- [ ] Yes, for more than 50 people

17. How much do you earn before tax in your current job?
Equivalent full-time salary. Include supplement for unsocial hours, but not overtime. (1 USD=8 SEK)
- [ ] Less than SEK 20,000 a month
- [ ] SEK 20,001–25,000 a month
- [ ] SEK 25,001–30,000 a month
- [ ] SEK 30,001–35,000 a month
- [ ] SEK 35,001–40,000 a month
- [ ] SEK 40,001–45,000 a month
- [ ] SEK 45,001–50,000 a month
- [ ] More than SEK 50,000 a month

18. What is your current career position/occupational title?
________________________________________________________________________________

19. Describe your main work tasks:
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

If you would like to provide, for the University and for current PhD students, information on where alumni from PhD education in your discipline can find jobs, please name the employer you work for today.

20. Employer:
________________________________________________________________________________

21. How satisfied are you with your current job?

- [ ] Very dissatisfied
- [ ] Quite dissatisfied
- [ ] Neither one nor the other
- [ ] Quite satisfied
- [ ] Very satisfied

22. The Swedish Higher Education Ordinance defines a number of degree aims for studies at postgraduate level. How far do you, in your current job, find the following skills and knowledge useful?

Not  To a small  To some  To a large  To a very  Don’t
23. **How far have you, in the whole of your working life since getting your PhD degree, found the knowledge and abilities you developed during your PhD education useful?**

- [ ] To a very small extent
- [ ] To a small extent
- [ ] To some extent
- [ ] To a great extent
- [ ] To a very great extent

**Comments:**

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

24. **How long after your doctoral degree did you get your first job?**

- [ ] I still don’t have a job, → Go to question 27
- [ ] I was on leave (full-time or part-time) from my job during my PhD education and returned to the same employer afterwards.
- [ ] I got a job before I finished my PhD education.
  - 1 month or less
  - 2–3 months
  - 4–6 months
  - 7–12 months
  - More than 12 months

25 a. **Do you have, or have you had, any time-limited qualifying position after taking your PhD degree? Mark all the options that apply.**

- [ ] No → Go to question 26
- [ ] Postdoctoral researcher
b. Where is or was the qualifying position located? *Mark all the options that apply.*

- Uppsala University
- Other higher education institution in Sweden. Name: ____________________________
- Higher education institution outside Sweden. Country: ____________________________

26. How much of the time since you took your doctoral degree have you...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Description</th>
<th>No time at all</th>
<th>A small part of the time</th>
<th>About half the time</th>
<th>Most of the time</th>
<th>All the time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>...been employed at the same department at Uppsala University where you obtained</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>most of your PhD education?</td>
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<tr>
<td>...been employed at a different department at Uppsala University from the one you</td>
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<tr>
<td>obtained most of your postgraduate education?</td>
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<tr>
<td>...been employed at a higher education institution other than Uppsala University?</td>
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<tr>
<td>...been employed outside academia?</td>
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</table>

QUESTIONS ABOUT PHD EDUCATION

27. Was your workplace as a PhD student located entirely or partly in an environment other than Uppsala University?

- No → Go to question 28
- Yes, my PhD education was located in ...

| Environment Description                                                                 | Not at all | Less than half | About half | More than half |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|           |                |           |                |
| ... a practical context (e.g. hospital, industry, public administration)               |           |                |           |                |
| ... another Swedish higher education institution                                       |           |                |           |                |
| ... foreign higher education institution                                                |           |                |           |                |

28. How far do you think your PhD education as a whole...

| Question                                                                 | Not at all | To a small extent | To some extent | To a large extent | To a very large extent | Don’t know |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|           |                  |              |                  |                        |           |
| a) ... was worth the work?                                               |           |                  |              |                  |                        |           |
| b) ... prepared you for working life within a higher education institution? |           |                  |              |                  |                        |           |
| c) ... prepared you for working life outside a higher education institution? |           |                  |              |                  |                        |           |
| d) ... contributed to your personal development?                          |           |                  |              |                  |                        |           |

29. How much teaching did you do during your time as a PhD student? *(State an average for your total time as a PhD student.)*

- No teaching at all
- About 20%
- Considerably less than 20%
- Considerably more than 20%
30. Have you attended a basic training course in university teaching?
   - Yes, during my time as a PhD student
   - Yes, after my doctoral degree
   - No

31. How far did you and your supervisor(s) discuss your occupation after your PhD degree?
   - Not at all
   - To a small extent
   - To some extent
   - To a large extent
   - To a very large extent

32. Previously in this questionnaire, you have estimated the usefulness of the following skills in your current job. In this question, we would like you to consider the same skills, but in relation to the PhD education you attended.

How far do you think your PhD education gave you opportunities to develop the following skills and knowledge, which are described in the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance?

- Not at all
- To a small extent
- To some extent
- To a large extent
- To a very large extent
- Don’t know

a) Broad, systematic knowledge in the research field
b) In-depth, up-to-date knowledge of a limited part of the research field
c) Knowledge of academic research methodology in general
d) Knowledge of academic research methodology in the specific research field
e) Carrying out scholarly analysis and synthesis
f) Carrying out independent, critical scrutiny and assessments
g) Identifying needs of new knowledge
h) Identifying and formulating academic research questions
i) Planning research and conducting it with adequate methods
j) Planning and performing other skilled work tasks
k) Performing work tasks within given time limits
l) Helping to develop knowledge in my research field
m) Presenting and discussing research results in Sweden
n) Presenting and discussing research results abroad
o) Presenting and discussing research outside academia
p) Supporting other people’s learning
q) Making assessments on research ethics
r) Showing intellectual independence
s) Showing academic rigour (honesty)
t) Gaining an understanding of the potential and limitations of academic research

Comments:
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

33. Since you took your doctoral degree, have you changed your mind about the value of PhD education, compared with when you had just completed your studies?

- Yes, I am much more negative now.
- Yes, I am a bit more negative now.
- No, I haven’t changed my mind.
- Yes, I am a bit more positive now.
- Yes, I am much more positive now.

Please comment on why:
34. **How satisfied are you with your PhD education at Uppsala University?**

- Very dissatisfied
- Quite dissatisfied
- Neither one nor the other
- Quite satisfied
- Very satisfied

**SOME CONCLUDING QUESTIONS**

35. **With your experience from the employment market and the time since you took your doctoral degree, what would you particularly like to emphasise as strengths and weaknesses, and what improvements, if any, can you suggest in your PhD education?**

   **Strengths:**
   
   
   
   
   
   

   **Weaknesses and suggestions, if any, for improvements:**
   
   
   
   
   

*Thank you for your cooperation*