

Rules of good practice for doctoral supervision

A doctorate is an undertaking for which its doctoral students, supervisors and thesis advisory committees bear joint responsibility. All participants are required to observe the rules of good scientific practice (see link: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/12523.html).

Supervisors:

1. You apply your scientific expertise to promote the independence of doctoral students and to give them the opportunity for their independent achievements to be visible in the scientific community. You are mentors to your doctoral students.
2. Your dealings with your doctoral students are cooperative. You make yourself available for regular scientific discussions with your doctoral students. In scientifically challenging phases of the doctoral process, you actively engage your abilities and experience in the solution to the problem.
3. You share with your doctoral students all the information that is important for the success of the PhD project.
4. You are the confidant and contact person of the doctoral students, also in relation to non-scientific issues (e.g. health or family), in particular those that could affect job performance and the success of the doctoral process. You promote the social integration of doctoral students in the research group. In the case of foreign doctora students, you also support their general social and cultural integration.
5. Your demands on the performance of doctoral students should promote and encourage them, but not be overwhelming. You particularly respect family responsibilities (e.g. child care). You take into account and respect different working patterns, together with requests for further training and for the self-organization of the doctoral students. From the beginning of the PhD project, you make transparent rule that are applicable to all members of the research group. You agree a time management plan for the doctorate with your doctoral students. If possible, you name objective criteria for the progress of the doctoral thesis.
6. You progressively transfer to your students increased responsibility for the scientific success of the project. You actively support the doctoral candidates in an independent way of work planning and provide for the necessary freedom. You provide your knowledge and experience in scientific management to the doctoral students.

Doctoral students:

1. You give your supervisor a complete picture of your scientific and personal strengths and weaknesses, so that an adequate problem formulation and an appropriate work program can be developed.
2. You work with enthusiasm on the doctoral project. You consistently qualify further for your scientific work and keep yourself updated with the research field. You take care to promote a collaborative working style, and are willing to discuss your work and results. You deal objectively with critical comments and suggestions and are ready to learn from them.

3. You inform the supervisor immediately of any difficulties or problems - whether they are of a professional or a non-professional nature - particularly if these could jeopardize the success of the doctoral project or delay its progress. You keep your supervisor regularly informed about progress and about unexpected results of your work.

4. You integrate yourselves actively into the workgroup. You will abide by the rules of the work group with respect to sharing the use of equipment, measurement times, computer use and the use of other resources. You will treat with the greatest care the workgroup's tangible or intangible valuables.

5. You fulfill your assigned scientific and teaching tasks independently and autonomously. You will independently organize and plan the running of your research project without daily monitoring and evaluation by your supervisor.

Thesis advisory committees:

1. They critically and supportively follow the doctoral process. Its members are the contacts for the doctoral students in technical matters, career planning and cases of conflict. When thesis advisory committees are appointed, it is taken care that the committee members act independently of each other and of the supervisor of the doctoral thesis.

2. They give the doctoral students and supervisors constructive feedback by acceptance and discussion of the progress reports.

3. They contribute their scientific knowledge, skills and experience to the support of the doctoral research.

4. In the case of conflict between doctoral students and supervisors, the search for a solution starts in the first instance with them. In doing so, they are obliged to remain neutral to all people involved in the conflict. Where this is not possible, or where no solution can be reached, they transfer the case to the director of the doctoral program.