

Expectations Worksheet

Basis for Discussion of Expectations for PhD Students and their Supervisors

The tool below is to help you and your supervisor discuss expectations¹. Both of you should fill this in (put an X in the box). In the case that you have significant differences be sure to come to a common understanding.

Developing research questions

Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PhD student
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Gaining access to resources

Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PhD student
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Developing and managing the timeline

Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PhD student
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Writing the thesis

Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PhD student
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Editing the text for submission

Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PhD student
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Finding conferences to attend and present at

Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PhD student
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Writing papers for publication

Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PhD student
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¹ From Wisker, 2012. The Good Supervisor. Macmillan, New York.

Other Things to Discuss

Supervision

What form should supervision mainly take?

What frequency of supervision/discussion should you have?

Who takes initiative for supervision (i.e., who books the meetings)?

How fast is reasonable for a supervisor to give feedback on a text?

Who sets deadlines?

Research

Who runs the research project (organize meetings, network, etc)?

Who is responsible for solving scientific problems?

Who is responsible for solving practical problems?

Publications

Who has the right to publish the PhD student's findings?

Who owns the data produced by the PhD student?

Who decides who is included on publications produced by the PhD student?

Skills Audit

1. Addressing knowledge gaps
2. Project planning
3. Time management
4. Information retrieval
5. Bench skills
6. Fieldwork skills
7. Analytical skills
8. Calculation skills
9. Interpretation skills
10. Problem solving
11. Creative thinking
12. Networking

13. Reviewing literature
14. Managing data
15. Computer programs
16. Structuring and presenting papers
17. Finishing written work

Priorities for development	Action to be taken