

Research Supervision - theory and practice

Spring 2025

Professional development course in research supervision for doctoral supervisors. The course is tailored to employees at Stockholm university (SU) who are commissioned to supervise doctoral students, with or without previous supervisory experience at doctoral level.

Effort involved

The course is equivalent to two weeks full time study, equivalent to 3 credits higher education course.

Aim and intended learning outcomes

The purpose of the course is to provide participants with opportunity and tools to discuss, develop and critically reflect on different aspects of doctoral supervision. On the basis of research on higher education and doctoral supervision and collegial exchange of experience the participants will after the course be able to:

- Reflect on duties and responsibilities of doctoral supervisors
- Demonstrate awareness of how doctoral education is governed and regulated locally as well as centrally, and how these regulations impact doctoral supervision
- Reflect on the organization and process of doctoral education at different departments at SU
- Reflect on and critically discuss their own role as supervisor in relation to research on doctoral supervision and in relation to issues of equity, equality and power
- Reflect on how doctoral students' learning and development can be supported in their own context
- Exemplify and discuss ethical dilemmas in doctoral supervision

Disposition of the course

The course is carried out during four full course days spread out over a month. Since the course is largely organized around the participants' reflections and collegial exchange of experiences, it is desirable that course participants are present at all course days. To obtain a course certificate, attendance is required at least 75% of the course time and a written supplementary task if absent any of the days. The purpose of the course being spread over several weeks is that the participants should have time to reflect on the topics discussed also in the practice of supervision at the home department.

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In addition to lectures, seminars and practical exercises, a large part of the course will be devoted to collegial exchange and discussions based on readings and preparatory assignments. The following topics are included in the course:

- The supervisor role and responsibilities
- Rules and regulations regarding doctoral education at Stockholm University
- Facilitating doctoral students' learning and development
- Feedback as a tool in supervision
- Ethics, gender and equality in supervision

Assessment

In addition to active participation in the course days, including the preparation that needs to be done for each of the course days, the course is examined through a written reflection assignment in which the course participant chooses one of two tasks: to plan, conduct and evaluate a supervisor interview, or to write a more in-depth reflection after having auscultated during a supervisory meeting.

Participants who successfully completed the course receive a course certificate.

Course Literature

Research supervision in theory and practice by Eva Brodin, Jitka Lindén, Anders Sonesson and Åsa Lindberg-Sand (Student literature, Lund 2016). The course book will be sent by the university mail to all participants before the first teaching session.

A literature list of proposed articles is made available at the start of the course.

Course Leaders

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