



LUND UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Science

DECISION

4 June 2014

Reg. no U 2014/411

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Minimum standard for the scope of supervision in research studies at the Faculty of Science

Background

Pursuant to the regulations on third cycle education (LS 2012/718), the faculty board shall stipulate a standard minimum for the scope of a doctoral student's supervision during his or her studies.

In our subjects, the supervisor and the doctoral student usually work closely together on projects and supervision only rarely takes the form of separately booked meetings and suchlike. This makes it difficult to consider supervision separately and to quantify its scope. Nor is it desirable for supervision only to take the form of defined meetings. The amount of supervision in itself is not the most important factor for successful research studies. However, the access to continuous supervision throughout the research studies programme is crucial. The faculty therefore stipulates the following minimum standard for supervision in research studies:

Minimum standard

A research student admitted to third cycle studies at the Faculty of Science is to have access to supervision dedicated to the thesis project throughout the period of study. The supervision need not necessarily be evenly distributed over the four years, but the doctoral student is to have access to supervision at intervals of two weeks at the most. In critical experiment situations* supervision must always be available at short notice. The allocation of roles between the doctoral student's supervisors (two or more) is to be made clear in the individual study plan and the continuity of supervision is to be assured in connection with events such as travel and field work or long absences of the supervisor due to illness, parental leave or suchlike.

The supervisors are responsible for continuous follow-up and support of the doctoral student's work. This includes ongoing documentation in the individual study plan of both the doctoral student's work (through notes on completed courses, intermediate goals achieved, etc.) and of the supervisory initiatives and verbal agreements. If the study programme is not proceeding according to what is stated in the individual study plan, appropriate measures are to be taken. There is to be continuous review and discussion of how the doctoral student's planned and actual performance compare and this is to be documented in writing in the individual study plan, which is to be approved annually.

This minimum standard has been stipulated by the faculty board after a presentation by Tobias Nilsson and a consultation with the faculty's research programmes board and presiding committee.

The signed and formally valid document is in Swedish. This is a translation only.

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* where access to instruments, material, organisms, etc. is very limited or where experiments cannot be repeated for other reasons, or where elements of risk are involved.