

PHD STUDIES

OCTOBER 27, 2016

WHAT HAS HAPPENED DURING 2016?

- Science faculty did an internal “evaluation” (audit) of PhD studies
- Clarification of roles of the main advisor, co-advisor and examiner
- Description of final seminar
- What should a PhD student do if (s)he wants to go to a conference?
- Ph.D. committee
- Discussion on a joint PhD degree between Chalmers and GU

AUDIT, MV

- There is an open atmosphere and good working environment at the department
- Ph.D. students seem happy with the supervision and the Ph.D. education
- Different opinions on the individual study plan (ISP). Many of us think that it is "something that has to be filled in" but is not designed for the Ph.D. education in mathematical sciences

AUDIT +

- Recrutement of Ph.D. students is well organized
- Ph.D. students experience that they are listened to, for example concerning the new organization of the department
- The lunch room is an important place for informal meetings

AUDIT -

- Would be good to have some "basic" Ph.D. courses that are given regularly and have a list of these on the homepage.
- Help Ph.D. students to build their scientific networks and encourage them to go to conferences.
- Make sure that examiners and advisors understand the importance of ISP.
- Discuss career planning with Ph.D. students and report such discussions in ISP.
- Make sure that Ph.D. students have regular contact with their examiner.

ROLE OF THE MAIN ADVISOR

- Has regular discussions with the Ph.D. student on the research project and the progression of the Ph.D. studies
- Together with the Ph.D. student, plans the studies: discusses which
 - courses to take, which research problems to work on, which
 - conferences, workshops and summer/winter schools to attend
- Participates in the “doktorandsamtal”
- Helps with future career planning

ROLE OF THE CO-ADVISOR

- At least one co-supervisor at MV
- Is introduced to the Ph.D. student's research project at an early stage
- Is aware of what the Ph.D. student is working on
- Preferably, reads the manuscripts that the Ph.D. student produces
- Participates in the planning of studies (update of ISP) and “doktorandsamtal”
- Helps the Ph.D. student to find a new main advisor if such a procedure is needed

ROLE OF EXAMINER

- Has the overall responsibility for the courses and theses fulfilling the quality requirements
- Reviews and gives points for the courses that are included in the Ph.D. studies
- Grades (approved or not) the licentiate thesis and seminar (or the mid term report and seminar)
- Before a licentiate seminar/Ph.D. defense, sends in the suggested time, place, and names of discussant (lic) or opponent and committee members (Ph.D.) to the head of the department
- Participates in the planning of studies (update of the individual study plan) and “doktorandsamtal”

FINAL SEMINAR

- Preferably, in the beginning of the fifth year, the Ph.D. student presents his/her preliminary Ph.D. thesis at an open seminar at MV with a prepared opposition.
- Each group (Ph.D. student, main and co-supervisors, and examiner) can decide how to organize the seminar and who will be the opponent (e.g. one of the co-supervisors or the examiner).
- Not an examination, rather something that would help the Ph.D. student to finish writing his/her thesis.

WHEN A PHD STUDENT PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONFERENCE OR COURSE OUTSIDE GOTHENBURG

- Discuss with the main advisor to decide whether the conference/summer school/course is worth going to.
- Apply for money to cover the expenses.
- Also, ask the advisor whether the advisor has some project money that could be used if the application is not successful. If there is no such money, ask the deputy division head whether the division could cover the expenses in case the application is not successful.

PHD COMMITTEE (FORSKARUTBILDNINGSKOMMITTÉ)

- Deputy head (proprefekt), chair
- Directors of Ph.D. studies (3)
- Deputy division heads (3)
- Ph.D. students (3)
- Ph.D. study administrator