

Discussion questions concerning Ph.D. studies (group 3)

- 1) The new process to follow up PhD studies (Chalmers)
- 2) Recommendations for how to give credit points for activities included in Ph.D. studies (Science faculty, GU)

Concerning 1, Anders Palmqvist, Chalmers vice president of research and research education, has suggested a new process to follow up Ph.D. students' progress. Every Ph.D. student would have a committee consisting of

- director of studies (chairman)
- supervisors (main and co-)
- examiner
- faculty member

Ph.D. student would meet with the committee regularly (the schedule planned with the times of the continuation of the employment contract in mind). At the follow-up meetings, the Ph.D. student him/herself would present his/her progression and how he/she will reach the goals. The focus would be on the goals and on the PhD student's journey towards becoming an independent researcher

Discussion: It was not clear what role the "faculty member" would have in the follow-up process. The first task would be to make the co-supervisors and the examiner more active in the process. Then, if needed, e.g. the director of Ph.D. studies could recommend to include another faculty member. The structure of the follow-up meetings, where the PhD student would have a more active role, was considered positive.

Concerning 2, the science faculty at GU has made some preliminary recommendations (not decided yet) on how we should give credit points for activities included in Ph.D. studies. In addition to courses, one could give up to 15 credit points for licentiate (or mid-) and final seminars, participation in seminars at the department, giving presentations at conferences, research visits, and utilization activities. Every department should come up with their own recommendations based on the recommendations by the faculty.

Discussion: Concerning courses (Ph.D. courses, individual study courses and journal clubs), we should try to have 7.5 credit courses. Concerning the other activities listed above, we would not give credit points for licentiate (or mid-) and final seminars or for giving presentations at conferences. We have seminar courses at the department that give 7.5 credit points given that the Ph.D. student participates in at least 50 seminars (10 of which can be replaced by giving a seminar oneself) and writing a report. Recently, we have also decided that one of the Chalmers optional generic and transferable skills (GTS) courses worth 1.5 credit points could be replaced by a research visit at some other university or institute. This applies also to our GU Ph.D. students. Also, some points could be given if the Ph.D. students participates in some utilization (samverkan) activities, such as to give a presentation at a science festival.