



GÖTEBORGS
UNIVERSITET



CHALMERS

Teachers' meeting: PhD studies

March 15, 2022

News: MV

- PhD recruitment in progress
- **New syllabi (ASP) are in place (less course points)**. If a PhD student wants to change to the new syllabus, they should
 - talk to the main advisor and examiner
 - if all agree, contact the deputy head (Aila)
 - deputy head has a discussion with the director of studies (Johan or Marija)
 - formal decision by the deputy head
- It will be possible to have **hybrid licentiate seminars and PhD defenses** even in the future (post Covid) both at Chalmers and at GU.

News: MV

- If PhD studies are **delayed due to Covid-19**, it should be documented in the individual study plan (ISP).
- PhD education/supervision **discussion group**, where we will discuss
 - How much freedom should we give to a PhD student and when?
 - What is a good PhD project?
 - Quality of the thesis, what is enough?
 - Communication between the PhD student and the supervisor.
 - The PhD student – colleague dilemma.
 - Half way seminar and final seminar (the latter is obligatory at GU).

News: Chalmers

- PhD students have to register to the Master's courses and to the exams of them.
- **Generic and transferable skills (GTS)** course requirements have been changed: 7.5 credits compulsory courses + a right to take additional 7.5 credits. The new obligatory courses are
 - **Pedagogy**
 - **Theory of science**
 - **Ethics**
 - **Academic writing**
- An **electronic individual study plan (ISP)** should be in place soon

News: course for PhD examiners and main supervisors

- The science faculty organises a continuation course which is, as the previous course, mandatory for all examiners and main supervisors and open for co-supervisors and future supervisors.
- If you are professor (including “biträdande”), you should take the course.
- You are welcome to take this course even if you are employed by Chalmers and do not have any PhD students at GU. The course counts as “supervisor activity”.
- You should [register to the course no later than March 31](#).

News: Evaluation of our PhD programs by GU/Science faculty

A general note: Mathematical Sciences has a very solid PhD education of the highest quality which can, in many respects, serve as a good (vägledande) example for other universities.

Evaluation of our PhD programs: Strengths

- High competence of the supervisors.
- Synergy through close collaboration with Chalmers.
- Good support for PhD students through a stable and secure organizational structure.
- Having “free” PhD positions (not connected to a predefined project) gives the doctoral students a great influence in their own education.

Evaluation of our PhD programs: Areas for improvement

- The syllabus (ASP) does not indicate how to secure that the national goals will be reached and which are the course requirements.
- Planning of PhD courses can be improved.
- Large and broad doctoral courses should provide compensation in the form of teaching hours for the teachers.
- The follow-up of the program and course development can be strengthened.

Evaluation of our PhD programs: Recommendations

- Ensure that all PhD students achieve the learning outcomes (national goals).
- Include large and broad PhD courses in the course planning and staffing and provide full coverage in teaching hours for the teachers who teach such courses.
- Reading courses: 1) ensure a consistent and strict management of higher education credits for reading courses; 2) announce reading courses early.
- Try to identify potential female candidates in undergraduate education and encourage them to apply for PhD positions.
- Discuss the role of the assistant supervisor based on the current role description.
- Communicate clearly what the purpose and value of the final seminar is.

Broad PhD courses (Michael)

The evaluation panel suggested that we should

"include some broad PhD courses in the curriculum and provide full coverage in teaching hours for the teachers who teach such courses".

A working group consisting of Michael Björklund (coordinator), Anders Södergren, and Johan Tykesson was asked to suggest two such courses.