

Policy for the supervision of PhD studies at the Institute of Technology

(This a translation of [the decision in Swedish](#))

The aim of studies at the PhD level is to deepen the PhD student's knowledge within the field of study in a high-quality manner. Both work with the doctoral thesis and the study of courses should prepare the PhD student to make independent contributions within research, education and development as well as similar fields.

The goal of PhD studies is to develop the PhD student's ability to critically and independently participate in, plan, lead, complete and disseminate knowledge about research and development projects. PhD studies should prepare one for qualified work within academia as well as in the rest of society.

Regulations about PhD studies are found in the Higher Education Act, the Higher Education Ordinance and in the university's local rules and regulations. In addition, the framework for all PhD studies at Linköping University is grounded on the university's program for equal opportunities, the university's program for quality assurance, the faculties' decisions regarding the forms and organisation of PhD studies, the departments' guidelines as well as the general syllabi for each respective subject area within PhD studies.

Regarding the doctoral thesis, the quality and form of the supervision is of central importance. In the individual study plan, which is devised for each PhD student, both the university's and the PhD student's commitments are laid out. The relationship between the supervisors and the PhD student should be characterised by respect, mutual consideration, a constructive and creative spirit as well as clarity. The following commitments apply to supervisors respectively PhD students at Linköping University:

The supervisors shall

- Define the division of responsibilities between the main supervisor and the other supervisors, and discuss and clarify the specific function of supervision with the PhD student. It is especially important to clarify the PhD student's and the supervisors' expectations of each other at an early stage.
- Be available for discussions as agreed upon with the PhD student.
- Discuss and revise the individual study plan on a regular basis with the PhD student.
- Comment on outlines and drafts in a constructive manner and within reasonable time as well as give regular feedback in general.
- Encourage and facilitate for the PhD student to present his/her research at conferences/PhD courses both nationally and internationally.
- Involve the PhD student in the choice of publication forms and channels.
- Involve the PhD student in applications for research grants and in budget work where applicable.
- Assist the PhD student in career planning and network-building.

The PhD student shall

- Carry out their commitments according to the individual study plan as well as regularly discuss and revise the study plan in consultation with their supervisors.
- Select suitable courses in consultation with their supervisors.
- Actively contribute to and take part in seminars.
- Present their own research at seminars and conferences, preferably both nationally and internationally.
- Actively participate in grant applications where applicable.

The faculty boards have the overall responsibility to follow up on the quality of the university's PhD study programmes, including the form and execution of supervision. This follow-up includes, among others, a yearly follow-up of PhD studies, a review of the individual study plans, questionnaires for PhD students at regular intervals and evaluations.