The Name of the Game - Key players, their roles and goals

Maisa Niemelä
Coordinator for Human Sciences
12th March, 2020
The key persons in UniOGS

Dean & Vice-Dean:
- Harri Oinas-Kukkonen, Jouko Miettunen
  - Leading the Graduate School
  - Granting of study rights
  - Granting of doctoral degrees
  + Vice dean: education & courses

UniOGS Management Group:
- Prof. Harri Oinas-Kukkonen, Prof. Jouko Miettunen, Prof. Tapio Seppänen, Prof. Risto Kerkelä, Prof. Pia Hurmelinna-Laukkanen, D.Sc. (Tech) Aulikki Herneoja, Director Vesa-Matti Sarenius, Director Veikko Seppänen, Doctoral researcher Riikka Tumelius & UniOGS coordinators
- Harmonization of processes
- General education & transferable skills curriculum
- Criteria for the selection of students and the acceptance of the doctoral thesis
DOCTORAL TRAINING COMMITTEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Human Sciences</th>
<th>Technology and Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Health and Biosciences</th>
<th>Information Technology and Electrical Engineering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

DTC members: Chair, representatives of the Faculties and Institutes, 2 students
- Admission applications
- Nomination of supervisors and follow-up groups
- Acceptance of Doctoral Training Plans
- Giving permissions to defend thesis, nominating kustos and opponent
- Grading the thesis

Coordinators:
- Elina Pernu & Maisa Niemelä
- Vuokko Ilinatti (OBS)
- Oili Sievola (FHum)
- Anne Tuomi (FEdu)
- Katri Suorsa (FSci)

Lead specialists:
- Karita Saravesi
  - Katri Suorsa (FSci)
  - Anita Pirilä (FTech)

- Heli Ruotsalainen
  - Katri Suorsa (FSci)
  - Marjo Tourula (Fmed/FBMM)

- Teemu Pennanen
  - Merja Inget (ITEE)

DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>HS-DP</th>
<th>TNS-DP</th>
<th>HBS-DP</th>
<th>ITEE-DP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinators</td>
<td>Janne Kurtakko</td>
<td>Riitta Kamula</td>
<td>Mirja Peltola</td>
<td>Mirjami Jutila</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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What graduate school does / offers?

- **Standardized doctoral training** in University of Oulu
- **Administration** of doctoral studies from admission to graduation
- **Guiding and counselling** for doctoral researchers and their supervisors throughout the studies
- **Evaluation of plans and progress**
- **Travel Grants**
  - Conferences
  - Research visits
  - Courses and workshops
- **General and transferable skills -courses**
  - Obligatory courses
  - Optional courses
- **Other events**
- **Field-specific courses through doctoral programmes**
Seven doctoral training principles

(European Commission: Nov. 2011)

1. **Research Excellence** - fundamental to all doctoral education

2. **Attractive Institutional Environment** - good working conditions to become independent researchers

3. **Interdisciplinary Research Options** - an open research environment and culture to create opportunities for interdisciplinary approach

4. **Exposure to industry and other relevant employment sectors** - from industry to business, government, non-governmental organization, charities and cultural institutions

5. **International networking** - collaborative research, conferences, short/longer research visits

6. **Transferable skills training** - communication, teamwork, entrepreneurship, project management, IPR, ethics, standardisation etc.

7. **Quality Assurance** – processes of graduate school, from admission to graduation
After the completion of your doctoral training, you have ability to

✓ Do original and independent research
✓ Get others excited about your research
✓ Create, develop and run your own research project
✓ Obtain funds for your own research
✓ Survive in an highly competetive and collaborative environment
✓ Respect and acknowledge the achievements of others
Career paths for PhD’s

Academic, research career: 4-level model

1. Early-stage researcher (doctoral researcher)
2. Post-doc
3. Independent researcher, group leader, Academy research fellow, university lecturer, university researcher
4. Professor, Academy Professor, Research Director

Roles of PhD in working life:

• Expert
• Researcher
• Manager
• Innovative developer
• Information processor
• Teacher
• Trainer – Consultant
• Supervisor – Mentor
• Entrepreneur
• International expert
• Funding specialist
• Official
• Opinion leader

(Ministry of Education and Culture, 2014)
Key Players

- Doctoral researcher
- Principal supervisor
- Co-supervisors
- Follow-up group
Supervision

Each doctoral researcher has the fundamental right to receive adequate expert supervision on his/her doctoral training.
Supervision

“Employers and/or funders should ensure that a person is clearly identified to whom early-stage researchers can refer for the performance of their professional duties, and should inform the researchers accordingly.”

It is clearly defined that the supervisor

- is sufficiently expert in supervising research
- has sufficient time, knowledge, experience and expertise
- is committed and able to offer the doctoral researcher appropriate support and provide for the necessary progress and review procedures, as well as the necessary feedback mechanisms.

(The European Charter for Researchers & The Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers)
Supervision vs. autonomy

Supervisor’s role is not to dictate in detail, but rather to advise, guide and oversee your research and training.

You will become self-sufficient in everyday work, but you will need to consult your supervisor about major matters:

➢ the background, methods, and experimental set up of the project,
➢ the clarification and critical examination of results,
➢ the context of the project, and its results, with respect to wider concerns,
➢ the best choice of studies adapted to your own professional goals
➢ and, eventually, the preparation of the thesis.

We are all different and there is no general recipe for establishing a good supervisor-student relationship.

Discuss with your supervisor about the type of guidance and criticism that you find of most assistance.
Primary qualities of high-quality supervision

1. Basic prerequisites
   - Supervisory commitment
   - Frequent meetings
   - Being available

2. Informational support
   - Practical help and advise
   - Planning the research and reporting

3. Emotional support
   - Encouragement
   - Constructive feedback

4. Instrumental support
   - Providing research facilities
   - Writing recommendations

Pyhältö et al. 2016
### Table 6. Frequency of supervision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of supervision</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a month</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once every two months</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once every six months</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less frequently</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pyhältö et al. 2016

**KEEP IN TOUCH**, but remember...

Your supervisor also has his/her own bridges to cross
Follow-up group

1. **Supports the progress** of the doctoral researcher’s doctoral training and career plans

2. **Gives** constructive **feedback** on the research and studies

3. **Follows** that the training is progressing according to the planned schedule

4. **Follows** that the research environment and supervision are sufficient in the context of the plans.

5. **Evaluates** the Doctoral Training Plan and progress

6. **Takes a stand** on the proposed pre-examiners and opponent(s) of the doctoral thesis
Follow-up group composition

The follow-up group (2-3 persons)

➢ A chairperson who is at least docent-level (with a doctoral degree)
➢ At least one other doctor-level member
➢ At least one member from the University of Oulu.
➢ May have a third member:
   ✓ Preferably doctor-level, but …
   ✓ May be a master-level expert from outside the university with a strong knowledge of the field in a non-academic context (industry, government …)

Members may NOT

➢ Be directly connected to the research, or to the doctoral student;
➢ Have joint publications with the student;
➢ Be close relatives, or family members.
➢ Be a supervisor of the student. However, when expressly invited by the doctoral student, supervisors may attend a meeting.
What do UniOGS and your research environment expect from you?
Expectations of the graduate school and the research environment

- Commitment and motivation
- Compliance with degree requirements and procedures
- Serious work ethics
- Respect of the work environment and colleagues
- Development and execution of a coherent doctoral training plan (research, studies & career)
- Regular reporting and meetings with your supervisor and doctoral training follow-up group
- Timely publication of the results
Where to find information and instructions?
www.oulu.fi/uniogs

Studying

• Study requirements
• Follow-up group
• Doctoral Training Plan
• Courses
• Passive register and instructions for recovery
Where to find information and instructions?
www.oulu.fi/uniogs

People, dates & documents:
• Forms and instructions library

Follow-up group:
• Nominating a follow-up group - form and instructions
• Follow-up group meetings and reporting - form and instructions

Doctoral Training Plan:
• Doctoral Training Plan Instructions
  Doctoral Training Plan consists of separate parts as specified in the instructions.
• Quick guide to the creation of webOodi-PSP

Approving field specific ECTS credits into a doctoral degree:
• Application form for approving field specific ECTS credits

For travel grants:
• Application form for travel grants

Nominating new supervisor:
• Form for proposal of new supervisor
  With this form, change or addition of new supervisor can be proposed.

Instructions and forms for the end process:
• Acta Universitatis Ouluensis - publishing instructions
• Application for Permission to Defend a Doctoral Thesis (part A) (the applicant and the thesis manuscript)
• Application for Permission to Defend a Doctoral Thesis (part B) (proposal for the nomination of pre-examiners)
• Application for Permission to Defend a Doctoral Thesis (part C) (proposal for the nomination of opponent(s) and custos)
Contact us by emailing
uniogs@oulu.fi