

Doctoral Supervision: An EUTOPIA Development Course on Best Practices

Context

There is a significant demand in modern universities to create a course for helping academics to develop competences to supervise PhD students. Our university used to have one such successful programme in the past.

However, in the context of the EUTOPIA European University Alliance, we thought this would be most interesting if shared among the different Universities that may show interest in participating. One such joint programme would be labelled as “EUTOPIA training”.

This programme will offer an opportunity to take part in a series of lecture workshops giving expert insight into the various responsibilities of PhD supervision.

Satisfied students are productive researchers, and students who feel they get high quality supervision will be happy students and prospective efficient researchers.

With this short course we aim to use the EUTOPIA European University Alliance to share the best practices in modern academia across our institutions on how to be an efficient and professional supervisor.

Content of the course

The professional development of supervisors is considered a requirement for successful doctoral education. EUTOPIA partners are offered the possibility for their current and future PhD supervisors to interact with a panel of experts for a series of short training sessions. Different aspects of the supervision of doctoral students will be addressed in interactive online sessions on a weekly basis.

Here is a list of suggested topics:

1. What should you be looking for before accepting a student for PhD supervision.
2. The nature of PhD supervisory relationship: responsibilities and benefits for both sides.
3. The process of doctoral education – a supervisor’s perspective.
4. The process and mechanisms of reviewing progress during a PhD supervision.
5. Conflict prevention and management in PhD supervision.
6. Co-supervision: when does it make sense, where does it happen, how does it work?
7. Learning and practicing research ethics during the PhD training.
8. Communication and cross-cultural issues in PhD supervision.
9. Strategies for supporting students in their PhD path.
10. Outcome-based doctoral education.
11. How to train PhD students for research exposure in the academia.
12. Preparing the PhD students for the job market.

Organization of the Course

- There are 12 sessions planned, 1 hour per session.
- Each of the different EUTOPIA universities should identify 2 or 3 academic experienced experts who may offer a seminar on some of the above topics.
- There will be at least one session offered by each of the different EUTOPIA participating universities in each edition.
- Each University would pay for their own instructors.
- Instructors may rotate from edition to edition, allowing the teaching charge to be equilibrated across universities in the long run.
- 12 sessions will happen on a regular basis, at a fixed weekday and hour, by zoom.
- Sessions will be held in English.
- Participation is free and exclusive for participants from EUTOPIA universities.
- **Registration at home university is required**, to avoid unqualified participants.
- **Each University provides previously to each session the validated list of their participants.**
- Seminars will be at 9:00 CET (8:00 in Lisbon and Warwick).
- Seminars will be composed of 30 min exposition and 30 min of Q&A from participants.
- Zoom link will be provided by Nova.
- Participants are registered as they enter online in the zoom chat.
- Participants registered on at least 8 seminars will be entitled to a Training Certificate.
- These certificates are to be issued by EUTOPIA and signed by its President.

Organizing team

- Anca-Mirela Andreica (UBB)
- Barbara Kénczél (TU Dresden)
- Daniel Branch (Warwick)
- Coloma Ballester (Pompeu Fabra)
- Hendrik Eijsberg (CY)
- João Amaro de Matos (NOVA)
- Loren Pauwels (VUB)
- Patrick Heinrich (Ca' Foscari)
- Tatjana Marvin (Ljubliana)

Target audience:

- Academic staff of EUTOPIA universities and associated partners, especially young researchers.
- All faculty members currently supervising PhD students or that aim to become supervisors.

At the end of the program the participant will learn and understand:

- How their role as a PhD supervisor develops over time
- The responsibilities of a PhD supervisor both legally, practically, and morally
- Best practices regarding ethics, conflict prevention, feedback, and communication

Draft Calendar for PhD Supervisors Training

Expectations when accepting PhD students	Warwick	February 26 th	Daniel Branch
The PhD supervisory relationship	Warwick & Ljubljana	March 5 th	Daniel Branch Vesna Zabkar
Challenges in educating PhDs	Ljubljana	March 12 th	Vesna Zabkar
Reviewing progress during a PhD	Nova	March 19 th	Isabel Nunes
Co-supervision challenges	VUB	March 26 th	
Conflict management in PhD supervision	Dresden	April 2 nd	Katharina Ulbrich
Research ethics in PhD training	UPF	April 9 th	Marianna Nadeu
Supporting students in PhD	UBB	April 16 th	Laura Visu-Petra
Communication in PhD supervision	Ca' Foscari	April 23 rd	Patrick Heinrich
Outcome-based doctoral education	CY	April 30 th	Hendrik Eijsberg
Training for research exposure	Nova	May 7 th	ITQB
Preparing PhD for the job market	UPF	May 14 th	Roser Pinyol

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