

Rules regarding PhD scholarships funded by external sources

Project managers who receive external funding for PhD scholarships in connection with big projects contribute significantly to both the recruitment of future scholars and to the research development of the faculty. The purpose of the rules below is to anticipate a number of known issues and potential conflicts in connection with externally funded PhD scholarships so that all parties involved gain the most quality. In general, a PhD is an education no matter whether it is externally funded or not, and the ministerial order does not draw a distinction. However, externally funded PhD scholarships are special in that the project must be carried out within a larger, superordinate project whose primary goal is defined in purely research terms rather than educationally motivated. This means that there are two important parties, apart from the PhD student, with an important role to play: a project manager and a supervisor. The two can be one and the same person, but when that is the case it is important that he or she is aware of the two different roles. According to the ministerial order, the supervisor is responsible for the student fulfilling all study requirements. The project manager, on the other hand, is committed to the appropriate and fruitful incorporation of the PhD project into the overall project, and to creating the best possible framework for the PhD student's contribution to the main project. The ministerial order does not operate with project managers and thus, strictly speaking, they have no function in relation to the PhD programme itself. However, as the PhD project forms part of a larger project that the project manager is responsible for (not least in relation to the external funding provider), the project manager will naturally assume an 'outer' responsibility for the programme and its optimal course in relation to the main project. It is in the management of the 'internal' supervision and considerations of the 'outer' project relation that issues and conflicts may arise if the roles are not kept separate in relation to the PhD student and the PhD project, and if a detailed balancing of expectations regarding the process is not carried out beforehand, including a specification of legitimate requirements and special circumstances to be included in the PhD plan.

- 1) Research faculty are encouraged to apply for external funding for big projects that include PhD scholarships. However, it is important to note that such scholarships cannot be used to fund research assistance, student assistance, or administrative assistance. Such functions must be covered by other, separate budget items.
- 2) Candidates who are considered for an externally funded PhD scholarship must write their own project description of about five pages (plus bibliography and any appendices) to be used as a basis for enrolment to the doctoral school. The project description must be approved by the project manager prior to the expert assessment in connection with the enrolment, see section 3.
- 3) As a basis for the head of department's request for enrolment, the candidate's qualifications and the project quality, academic relevance and practical viability must be assessed by one or more experts in the relevant field. The project manager receiving the funding cannot take part in this assessment.
- 4) If the project manager is appointed as the main supervisor, a local assistant supervisor must be appointed at the same time.

- 5) The PhD student is responsible for writing the PhD plan, but is expected to do so in consultation with both the supervisor and the project manager.
- 6) In the PhD plan, the project manager and the PhD student's balancing of expectations with regard to the integration of the PhD project into the main project must be accounted for in detail. In particular, the part about knowledge dissemination and any other tasks or duties not directly related to the thesis must be specified precisely. The PhD student cannot be instructed to perform tasks that are not mentioned in the PhD plan, and the connection between any tasks specified and the PhD student's project must be indicated.
- 7) In the section of the PhD plan on the form of the thesis, any co-authorship in connection with a compilation thesis must be accounted for. If the student decides to change this point at a later time, he or she must submit an addendum to the PhD plan signed by the supervisor, the project manager, and the head of department.