

SUPERVISING PhD STUDENTS

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Contents

The actual supervision of PhD students is in many cases done by PostDocs or early career researchers. This work, when successfully done, is without doubt the key to success for any academic career, and at the same time can be a very rewarding experience.

Nevertheless, especially for an early career independent researcher, this can be a highly challenging task, too:

- I have just finished my own PhD, how can I take the responsibility for another person's PhD project?
- Am I the friend of the PhD student or her/his boss?
- What does supervision actually mean? Am I participating in her/his research work and if yes, to which degree?
- Under which legal requirements does supervision take place?
- What degree of time and effort am I supposed to invest into this task?
- And many more questions....

This seminar will

- Provide the (sometimes quite complex) legal background for supervision of PhD students,
- Show the possibilities and necessity for structuring a PhD project,
- Make clear what kind and extent of supervision can/should be expected by the PhD student (–and what should not be expected),
- , and show how and in which way a PostDoc or independent early career researcher benefits from supervision.

Methods

The exchange of experience and problem-solving approaches constitute the seminar. It is of utmost importance to discuss and work on the problems you actually encounter. Furthermore, input will be given on the legal background, time- and self-management principles, and the peculiarities of a PhD in the Life Sciences and in structured PhD programs like the GSLS.

I would like to invite the participants to send me - prior to the seminar - information on their respective questions, so that the content of the seminar can be adapted accordingly.