



The contract of expectations

Discuss your ideas about the supervision at the start of the PhD project and review these ideas every now and then to decide whether they are still valid. Make use of the following questions:

Meetings

- How frequent, how long?
- With fixed intervals or only upon request?
- How business like or informal?
- At which time of the day?

Responsibility

- Who is mainly responsible for time management of the PhD project?
- Who can decide a paper can be (re)submitted?
- Who is responsible for decisions regarding the research topic and the theoretical framework of the dissertation?

Feedback

- What kind of feedback is needed?
- How often is feedback needed and on which products or drafts of products?
- Is it preferable to have the feedback on paper?
- How often will the PhD student get feedback on the process of doing research?

Collaboration

- What are the strong and weak points of the supervisor and the PhD student?
- Which role(s) will the supervisor fulfil:
Motivator / coach / father (or mother) figure / inspirer / expert / teacher /....

Practical Issues

- Are there periods of absence? (this is just a fact to take into account)
- Are there any other circumstances that could influence the project?
- Are there any introductions needed to the appropriate services and facilities departments of the university or to other institutions?