

UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

Supervision in teams

SV Supervision forum
7 March 2023

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Background

- Minimum two supervisors
- Co-supervisor can be
 - from the same department
 - another department at UiB
 - another university (Norway and beyond)
- Some pressure to identify the co-supervisor (very) soon after the candidate starts
- Two “quick and dirty” surveys among the supervisors and the candidates

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What is important?

Supervisors

- Complementing theoretical or methodological competence
- Complementing context knowledge
- Reputation
- Prior good experience
- Part of the same team
- More supervision experience
- Can “cover” for the main supervisor
- Likely to agree

Candidates

- Complementing context knowledge
- Complementing theoretical or methodological competence
- Reputation
- Can “cover” for the main supervisor
- Part of the same team
- Likely to agree
- More supervision experience
- Better supervision

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When?

Supervisors – varied

- before the candidate starts
→ after the 1st year or even later
- *“the direction of the PhD dissertation has solidified”*
- Complementarity with the main supervisor:
 - Theoretical? Early
 - Methodological? Later

Candidates – less varied

- Most: within the first six months
- Better idea about
 - Own project
 - Main supervisor’s competence

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How?

Supervisors

- Mostly meeting together with the candidate, with or without prior coordination
- Also mentioned
 - Mix of individual and joint meetings
 - Varies between candidates

Candidates

- Mostly meeting separately, with limited / no coordination between supervisors
- Also mentioned
 - Mix of individual and joint meetings
 - Primarily with the

Workload distribution?

Supervisors

- 60/40 to 80/20
- 70/30 most common
- depends on the project, co-authorship arrangements

Candidates

- Some find it difficult to estimate
- 50/50 to 90/10
- 80/20 most common

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In case of disagreements...

Supervisors

- Most common
 - discuss with the candidate and come to an agreement together
- Also mentioned
 - supervisors agree first
 - candidate decides
 - main supervisor decides

Candidates

- Most common
 - no disagreement so far
- Also mentioned
 - discuss with candidate and come to an agreement together
 - main supervisor decides



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