

## The Joint Committee of the Nordic Medical Research Councils (NOS-M) recommendations for a harmonisation of the Nordic medical PhD education (2014)

The NOS-M committee recommends that:

- All PhD students should have at least two supervisors
- Clinical PhDs students should be allowed to spend minimum 50 % of their time on research
- That PhD courses in the Nordic countries are

*i) available to PhD students in all Nordic countries*

*ii) coordinated to obtain critical mass in small and scattered research areas*

*iii) are credited through the ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) system and that ECTS credits are transferable between the Nordic countries. The definitions of ECTS in the PhD courses should be harmonized, e.g. 1 ECTS = 25-30 hours.*

- A website announcing PhD courses held at the Nordic medical and health science faculties is being set up. The website could build on an already existing university course database and later be extended to include also European courses.
- PhD students are subjected to regular evaluation in order to monitor the PhD project progress and the accumulation of the PhD candidates skills and knowledge (scientific writing, presentation techniques, teaching, project management, talks at conferences, innovation etc.) as well as international mobility.
- The focus should be on quality and scientific impact of the PhD thesis rather than the number of original publications included. NOS-M recommends that the PhD thesis is based on peer reviewed scientific papers aimed for publishing in international scientific journals. The PhD candidate should be the first author of at least one accepted scientific paper.
- PhD students are educated in open access practices for both data and publications.
- The importance of the candidate's summary (sammenskrivning (NO), ramberättelse/kappa (SE), oversigt (DK), yhteenveto (FI), ritgerd (IS)) is emphasized
- An international expert should be included in the doctoral committee/external reviewers or as an opponent
- That the medical faculties emphasize more the quality of the thesis and the scientific papers therein than the quantity in evaluating academic staff for new positions.