

## Doctoral supervision: Guiding Questions for Doctoral Researchers

With the following guiding questions, RUB Research School supports doctoral researchers in communicating expectations and goals with supervising researchers at the beginning of their doctorate.

In addition to an ongoing discussion about subject and methodological knowledge, supervision offers an accompanying monitoring of the research process, an exchange on the state of research and research results within the framework of doctoral projects, as well as on publication strategies, conference participations, integration into the scientific community, qualification opportunities and responsibilities at the chair.

### Guiding questions that doctoral researchers can communicate at the beginning of their doctorate:

- clarify expectations of supervising researchers regarding the supervisory relationship
- discuss with supervising researchers expected scientific performance for a dissertation
- reflect on own expectations as doctoral researcher with regard to the supervisory relationship and contribute this to the discussions
- discuss possibilities for financing a doctorate: e.g. doctoral position, doctoral scholarship
- clarify second supervision and responsibilities of second supervisors
- develop and clarify in agreement with first supervisor basics for the dissertation:
  - topic and expected goals
  - relevance and contribution to research
  - object of research, methods, research questions
  - time and work plan with feasibility
  - duration of dissertation
  - volume of dissertation
  - form of dissertation (cumulative or monographic)
  - first planning of possible publications and conference participations
  - questions about rules of good scientific practice and/or research ethics
- discuss research environment for own doctorate, e.g.
  - equipment/ workplace
  - research resources/ consumables
  - participation in colloquia, chair meetings, research activities at the chair
  - integration into networks and cooperations
  - international research activities
  - opportunities for research and personal qualification
  - travel funds
- clarify organization of supervision meetings:
  - clarify concerns for a supervision meeting: e.g., results, research processes, time and work schedule or next research activities, publications and conference attendance, or personal concerns
  - discuss regularity/ frequency of supervision meetings
  - clarify how supervision meetings will be arranged
- agree on communication channels for arranging supervision meetings: face-to-face meetings, digital meetings, phone calls, email exchanges, etc.
- agree on pre- and post-processing of supervision meetings: provide summaries of research results and processes, illustrations/graphs, finished texts, drafts, working papers, how to record results of supervision meetings
- clarify own tasks and responsibilities at the chair (including teaching) as well as integration into the scientific community at the chair/ in the working group