

Veritas Workshop on QA in PhD Education

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WP3: QA in PhD Education

- → Every faculty has to have **written regulations for the requirements to acquire a PhD**. Although certain basic regulations are the same at every faculty there are certainly differences between the different faculties according to their scientific and research background. For example the medical faculty allows starting already the experimental work for the doctoral thesis while studying medicine and this is not possible for the social sciences. ¶

WP3: QA in PhD Education

- → The written regulation for the doctoral degree defines the scientific requirement of the tutor, the time in which the preparation of a doctoral thesis should be finished, the assessment of the doctoral thesis, the requirement for certain grades (e.g. publication of the results), requirements about ethical standards doing research work ¶

WP3: QA in PhD Education

- → In the Life Sciences, a postgraduate degree is required to enter the PhD program. The discipline can be biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, or mathematics. Here, the students ought to have a **masters degree according to European Standards** (Bologna). In case of doubt (e.g. Medical students), the Graduate School terminates an examination for comparability of the degree. ¶

WP3: QA in PhD Education

- → The **mentor for PhD candidates** needs an education in the field the candidate wants to get a PhD (e.g. MD for PhDs in Medicine), he has to have a broad experience in research (national and international acknowledgement) and he should have a full professorship at the faculty / university or be a principal investigator at the faculty of medicine or biosciences.

WP3: QA in PhD Education

- → The mentor has the full responsibility for the support of the PhD candidate. This means: ¶
 - → controlling the performance of the research work of the candidate, ¶
 - → evaluation of the research results, ¶
 - → providing time for research work besides the normal working hours, ¶
 - → introducing the candidate into national and international cooperation and ¶
 - → giving presentations at congresses and scientific meetings. ¶

WP3: QA in PhD Education

- → All PhDs in Life Sciences should be integrated into one of the structured PhD programs that fulfils the need of converting the individualized, traditional PhD into an open, international and transparent qualification procedure. ¶

WP3: QA in PhD Education

- → A dedicated committee (Thesis Advisory Committee, TAC) continuously monitors the success of the PhD. Regular meetings with between student and committee members are documented in written reports. Besides the direct supervisor, two additional TAC members ensure balanced opinions about the work. ¶

WP3: QA in PhD Education

- → Two supervisors (Faculty members) write detailed reports about the quality of the final version of the PhD. They suggest the mark of the written thesis. The written thesis fulfils the minimal requirements for the publication of the PhD. Ideally, although not formally required, the thesis provides experimental data that can be published in an international, peer-reviewed journal. The mark “summa cum laude (with honor)”, however, requires at least one peer-reviewed publications, where the doctoral fellow is the first author. 🗨️

WP3: QA in PhD Education

- → The PhD promotion is finalised after an **oral examination** with a presentation of the candidate and a scientific experts discussion with four examiners (including the two thesis referees) about the work. They suggest a final mark from the examination that has to be agreed on by the faculty. ¶

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