

Supervisory and Study Culture of the Doctoral Education in Sweden



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The Swedish System

- Most research is financed by government and governmental funding agencies
- All graduate (PhD) students are employed by the university (salary, 4 year, full-time)
- Supervisor and second supervisor/s
(At least one of them associate professor/full professor), and know days even mentors
- University must fulfil the specific national goals (no PhD exams - no money)

Rights as both employed and student

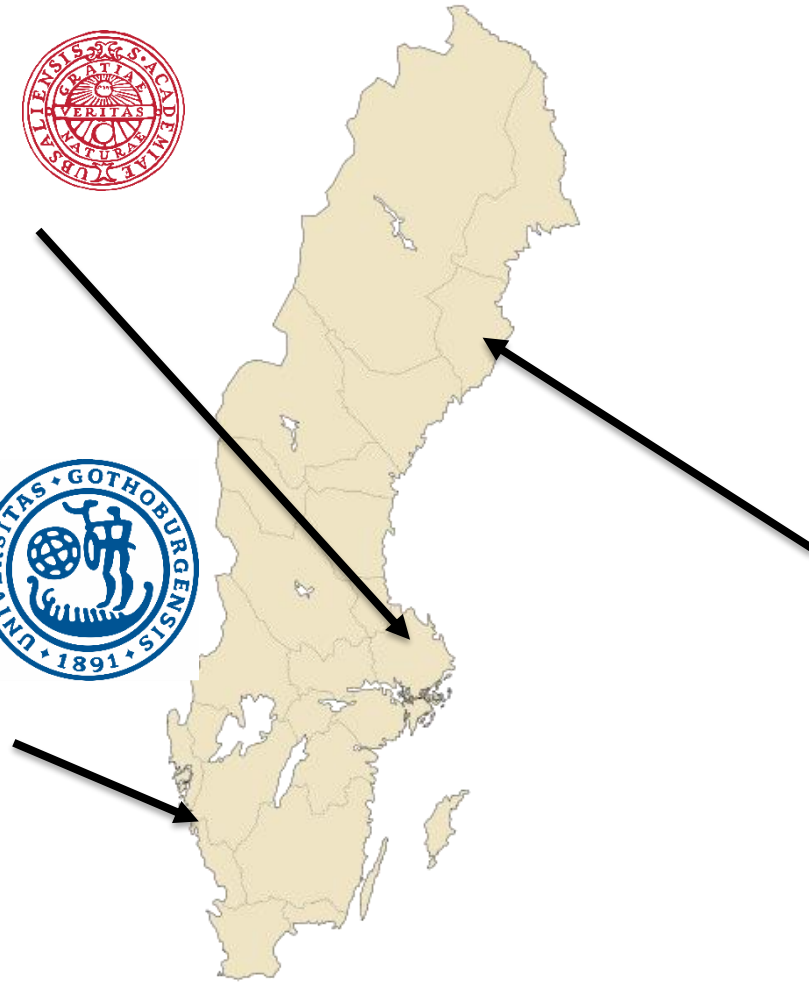
- Social security (eg. paid parental leave 2 years, sickness benefit, paid vacation 5-7 weeks/year)
- Workroom, computer and other facilities

I.e same rights as all employees at the university
– but limited in time

- Supervision through out the four years
- Entitled to a regulated curriculum

Supervising the PhD beyond Boundaries (HPE201)

- Started 2012 (2000)
- 3 weeks full time work - 7 days schedule
- Thematic structure
- From "external" to "internal" aspects
- Lectures, seminars, workshops, forum-play, discussions
- Auscultation
- 4 individual papers & mandatory participation



Diversity Problems in Supervision

(Lindén 1998:152)

- To underestimate the importance of culture - "all are equal" = everyone should be treated equally
- To over-emphasize the importance of culture - group level - the individual level (stereotypes)
- To avoid facing problems and dilemmas due to fear of being accused of ignorance, ethnocentrism, racism, xenophobia etc

Synonymies

(from 2012)



Instructor

Mirror

Critical friend

Champion

Manager

Door Opener

Therapist

Tutor

Guide

Advisor

Guru

Mentor

Sponsor

Expert

Information

officer

Administrator

Pilot

Teachers

Consultant

Coach

God parent

Cartridge

Boss

Controller

Fazlhashemi 2002: Möten, myter och verkligheter:

- Clear, written and oral information about formal and informal guidelines to and through education
- Discuss repeatedly what distinguishes the doctoral thesis from basic levels of study and course readings
- What is meant by independence in your subject?
- Visualize and raise awareness of seminar cultures, "invisible hierarchies" and unspoken expectations through scheduled staff meetings and discussions with students, respectively.
- Clarification of responsibility and decision-making: Who does what?
Administrative staff?

From Handal – Lauvås (2008) *Forskarhandledaren*. Lund,
s. 230-231:

- Stay alert to international students' ways of learning. What conflicts arise due to Swedish culture and forms of communication? "We are all stuck somewhere" (McCutcheon 2003)
- Understand that students may have problems with language, but also with their belief and value system as well as their view of knowledge and learning. Discuss with and clarify to the students.
- Show understanding for those students who want to have precise instructions, try to gradually change these into a direction of greater independence
- Etc.

Training Course for Senior Supervisors/HPE202

- Started 2012, boarding "from lunch to lunch"
- Two follow-up days with a writing assignment between the both occasions
(1 week)
- Examination; Literature Seminar/grades
- Selection, a maximum of eight participants
- Experienced supervisors, even professor emeritus

Conclusions

What is PhD supervisory culture (study culture) to you?

What goes without saying?

Is your supervision ethnically, socially or even "religiously" coded in some way?

National Network for Supervisors Trainers/NFU

Collaboration with colleagues in Sweden by forming a national network with

- Annual meetings
- List of references
- Course design
- Electronic platform etc.

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