# PhD Convent Meeting June 2020 

Representatives Report

## Our topics for you

- Format of the PhD thesis
- Dissertation agreement
- Revision of the doctoral regulations
- Teaching and supervision
- Being a representative
- Topics of 2020
- Election of new representatives
- PhD in corona times (survey)


## Faculty of Biology PhD Convent

- The Convent was set up 2016 to represent Bio-PhD interests
- All registered doctoral candidates in Faculty of Biology are part of this convnet

Faculty of Biology PhD cohort statistics
Gender Nationality



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## Introducing the current PhD Reps



## Format of the PhD thesis

More Information for doctoral candidates

## Format of the PhD thesis

## Cumulative

Requirement:
1.at least two manuscripts in which you are an author or co-author
2.First author (single or shared first author) of at least one paper
3. Thesis must be accompanied by a general introduction and discussion

## Classical monograph

Classical thesis with introduction, material/methods, results section, and discussion

## Monograph with published and/or unpublished manuscripts

Combination of Monograph and cumulative:

1. Thesis must be accompanied by a general
introduction and discussion
2. and can consist of either published or unpublished manuscript on one topic.


More Information for doctoral candidates

## Dissertation Agreement

Why?
For whom?
How will it help?


## New dissertation agreement

- General clauses : candidate name, supervisor name, thesis title
- Conflict clauses:
> "Unilateral termination of the supervision agreement is only possible after a completed ombuds process."


## 9. Disputes

In the event of differences of opinion or disputes between one or more of the supervisors and the doctoral candidate, all parties agree to make an effort to find an amicable solution. If necessary, they may contact the Central Ombuds Office or one of the faculty ombuds offices for dissertation supervisors and doctoral candidates of the University of Freiburg.
10. Termination of the Supervision Agreement

The parties may dissolve the doctoral supervision agreement by mutual consent. A unilateral termination of the supervision agreement is only possible after a completed ombuds process. Both the dissolution and termination of the supervision agreement must be submitted in written form. The supervisor notifies the doctoral committee in case the supervision agreement is dissolved or terminated. The supervision agreement is dissolved if the application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate is rejected by the faculty. The supervision agreement is terminated when the doctoral candidate fulfills the obligation of publishing the dissertation.

- Appendices: Attendance in Workshops, brief project plan. NOTE: Teaching is not part of the dissertation agreement.


## Revision of the doctoral regulations

## Doctoral regulations - current status

valid regulations from 2013
last revision in 2016
$\rightarrow$ never came into effect
new revision in 2019/20

## Doctoral regulations - changes

- stronger focus of the oral exam on research topic
- weighing of the grades for oral exam vs. thesis: 1:2
- need for coherence of topics in thesis suspended
- prolongation of thesis from 5 up to 7 years possible
- vote for PhDs in doctoral board


## Doctoral regulations - outlook

legal check by the rectorate
approval by the faculty council

# Teaching and Supervision 

from obligation<br>to voluntariness



## Teaching: Obligations

- teaching is subject to social insurance contributions (health, unemployment, pension, ...)
- university pays salary for teaching
- if part of your contract (typically paid by faculty, "Hausstellen")
- obligatory
- amount specified in contract, maximum full contract time
- if not part of your contract (typically DFG projects, scholarships, ...)
- voluntary
- eligible for add-on contract (assistant's position, "HiWi")

$$
\text { => previous " } 2 \text { courses rule" was kicked }
$$

## Teaching: Accident Insurance

- covers teaching assignments
- independent of contract type (obligatory and voluntary teaching)
- teaching must be authorized by your group leader
- course responsibility lies with the professor / faculty, not yourself
$X$ autonomous course supervision is not covered
- covers internal and external PhD students (Uniklinik, MPI, ...)
- scholars w/o contract:
- covered if enrolled as student or if teaching is part of scholarship regulations
- covered if holding a contract for the supervision time

X otherwise => not covered by the university!

## Teaching: Use the opportunities!

- We recommend teaching because:
- teaching teaches you a lot
- you show responsibility
- well-trained students can provide great help
- teaching is fun
- check survey results (website => Reps report 2018)
- the faculty will acknowledge your work with an official certificate
- keep a record with our form (website => downloads)
- hand in the filled sheets with your thesis


## Teaching Record

## Record of teaching achievements

Name of doctoral student: $\qquad$ Time of thesis: $\qquad$ to $\qquad$

Transferable skills:
The following tasks were collectively carried out:

Course co-supervision:
developing course experiments and scripts organizing course materials teaching theoretical background, tutoring instructing experiment execution discussing experimental results evaluating student protocols mentoring international students in English other:

Thesis co-supervision:
project and experiment design
instructing lab work and experiment execution
teaching standards of good scientific practice
training student's presentation skills
( supporting student in thesis writing
assisting in final examinations
other:

Co-supervised theses and internships:

| Semester, <br> year | Co-supervised thesis / Internship | Thesis or <br> Internship |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Example: Record of teaching achievements
Name of doctoral student: Michael Jackson
Time of thesis: Jan 1983
to June 1987

Transferable skills:
The following tasks were collectively carried out:

Course co-supervision:
$\bigcirc$ developing course experiments and scripts ( $)$ organizing course materials
teaching theoretical background, tutoring
( $)$ instructing experiment execution
(D) discussing experimental results
evaluating student protocols
mentoring international students in English other: $\qquad$
|Thesis co-supervision:
$\bigcirc$ project and experiment design
( instructing lab work and experiment execution
(D) teaching standards of good scientific practice
(D) training student's presentation skills
( $)$ supporting student in thesis writing
assisting in final examinations
other:
ner:

## Teaching Record

Record of co-supervised student courses:

| Semester, year | Course type* (GM, PM, VM, OM, SP1/2, WM) \& number | Course title | BSc or MSc level | Number of participants | Language (de/en) | Workload (hrs.) | Date and signature of course supervisor |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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## Being a PhD rep



## Being a PhD rep - activities

## We currently meet every 2 weeks for $\sim 1.5 \mathrm{~h}$

We attend commitee meetings of:

- Doctoral Board („Promotionsausschuss"):
monthly, Thursdays at 2 pm
- Faculty Council („Fakultätsrat"):
monthly, Thursdays at 3:15 pm
- Joint Working Committee of the Doctoral Candidate Councils („GAA"): monthly, Wednesdays at 6 pm


## Other activities:

- Networking
- Topics important to Doctoral Candidates (Job information, Mental Health, Work regulations, ...)


## Being a PhD rep - organization



## Topics in 2020

Effects of COVID-19 on PhDs
(Re)connect PhDs after social distancing
Let changes to doctoral regulations come into action

## Survey: Effects of COVID-19 on PhD candidates

## Insights from the survey

Working style 50\% Home office + lab 16.7\% Mostly home office 28.8\% Mostly lab/office

Work on lab based experiments 40.9\% Continued working as normal 30.3\% Reduced work to a minimum 16.7\% Stopped lab, continued computer analysis 12.4\% Other responses

Compared to usual, in the past two months:


## Insights from the survey

Impact of the pandemic on your ability to work on your PhD project


## Elections




## Election

Candidate 1: Ute Hoffmann $11+2+3=16$
Candidate 2: Deepti Prasad $7+7+3=17$
Candidate 3: Nibedita Priyadarshini $2+4+4=10$
Candidate 4: Ellen McAllister $1+6+2=9$
Candidate 5: Ebrahem Hamed $1+4+4=9$
Candidate 6: Klara Lesch $2+6+5=13$

- Candidate 7: Xiulin Ng $8+3+11=22$
total $96=3$ rounds $\times 32$ votes


## Election

Representatives 2020
Candidate 7: Xiulin Ng $8+3+11=22$
Candidate 2: Deepti Prasad $7+7+3=17$
Candidate 1: Ute Hoffmann $11+2+3=16$

- Deputy Representatives 2020
- Candidate 6: Klara Lesch $2+6+5=13$
- Candidate 3: Nibedita Priyadarshini $2+4+4=10$
- Candidate 4: Ellen McAllister $1+6+2=9$
- Candidate 5: Ebrahem Hamed $1+4+4=9$

