



**Karolinska
Institutet**

Promoting Reflective Practice and a Common Supervision Culture

Supervisor Courses at Karolinska Institutet

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Introductory Course for Supervisors of Doctoral Students

- Course was established in 1999
- Became mandatory in 2008 for supervisors who have not previously acted as a principal supervisors
- One-week course
 - 4 days of contact teaching in classroom with interactive lectures, small group discussions, case analyses, and some role-play exercises
 - a web-based module on rules and regulations
 - An individual written assignment (Supervision Plan)

Introductory Doctoral Supervision Course

The aim of the course is to prepare participants to the role of supervisor and to provide insight into the responsibilities that it entails.

The contents include: roles and responsibilities, communication and conflict management, intercultural communication, regulations and legal aspects, research ethics, diversity and equal treatment, how to recruit a doctoral student

The activities during the course seek to serve three purposes: To transmit information, improve supervisory skills and to foster reflection on the supervisors' own practice¹⁾

¹⁾Godskesen, Wichmann-Hansen & Kobayashi, 2017

Strenghts and Challenges

- The basic course and other trainings offered to supervisors have been well-established and largely accepted by the supervisors
- The course receives good participant feedback
- Doctoral students' satisfaction with the supervision they receive has systematically increased over a period of several years

- Skills building and critical reflection are fostered through case-based work and some role play. ¹⁾
- With the compact course format of four consecutive days there are limited opportunities to follow-up actual supervisory practice and departmental culture

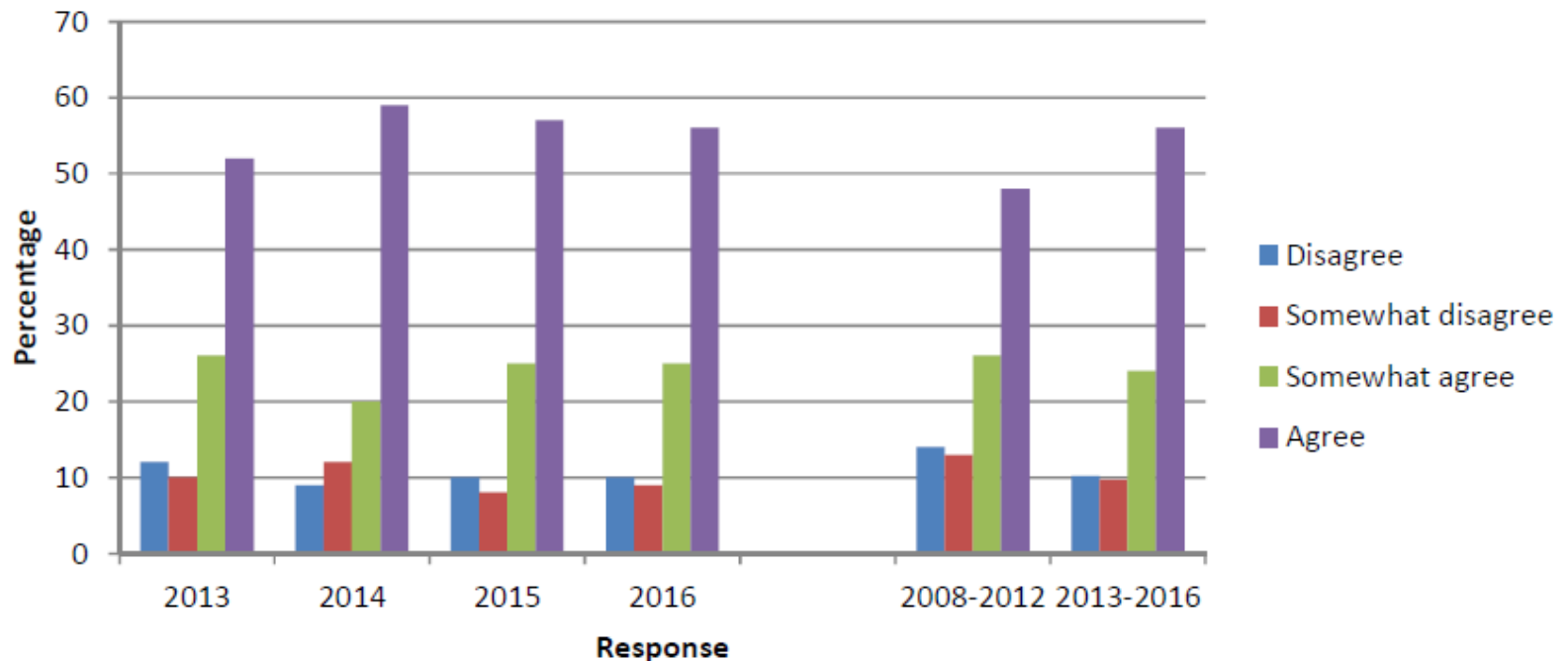
Additional Information

An Organisation-Wide Strategic Approach for Doctoral Education

- Green-light procedure for supervisors
- Open recruitment and admission seminar
- Individual study plan
- Check-points: Yearly follow-up, extended follow-up at half-time
- Several support functions for doctoral students
- Exit poll results are used as part of quality assurance process
- Other training activities provided by the Board of Research Education
- To aid in creating a common culture of doctoral education and supervision at KI

Results from Karolinska Institutet's Exit Poll

13. I would recommend my principal supervisor to prospective doctoral students.*



Web course #1

The purpose of this course is to update the supervisors of the current rules and regulations of doctoral education- must be updated every 5th year.

- Mandatory for all principal supervisors (even those who have supervised many doctoral students).

Needs to be updated every 5 years

- Required for eligibility to the Introductory course and pedagogic and



- Presentations of different rules followed by multiple-choice questions divided into sections: before admission, admission, follow-up, dissertation and what if anything goes wrong