



RUDN
university

Successful Supervisor: Based on academic excellence or talent?

Prof. Romanna Safir, Head of Postgraduate Department, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN)
safir_re@rudn.university

Responsibility to provide ongoing high quality PhD supervision.

Outstanding PhD supervision should be recognized and reinforced by universities through the application of professional standards and rewards for performance

3G Universities - «4G» supervision:

Create innovation

Science research

Transform knowledge

Form personality

Successful supervisor ↔ successful doctorate graduate

Supervision needs to be professionalized

SO

There needs to be

- **Clear understanding tasks and role**
- **Structural and systematic quality assurance mechanisms**
- **Supervisor training, and a framework to frame this training**
- **Improved support for supervisors**
- **Supervisor performance needs to be monitored**

At the national level

Giving Universities more tools to cope with the new challenges to provide quality of study and research.

- *Major reforms in order to support research at leading universities.*

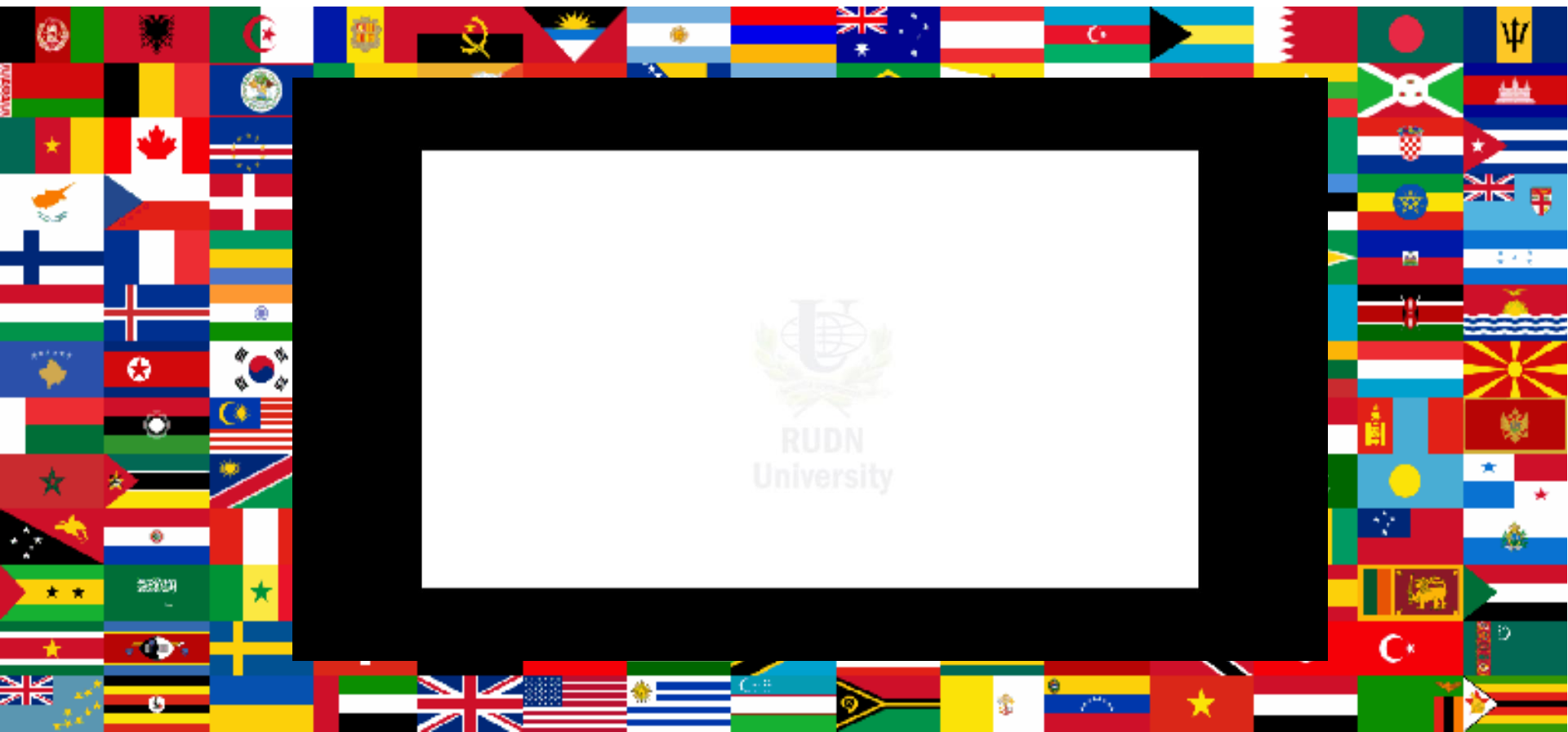
Several programs have been launched, such as the National Research Universities Project, Russian Academic Excellence Project 5-100 and others, that allow participating institutions to introduce new incentives for talented scholars, including doctoral students and postdocs, to reward publications in top international journals.

Support for high-quality research is an important source of soft leverage that motivates university to adopt world-class education and scientific standards.



RUDN
university

“Discover the world within one University!”



55 years old, 30000 students, 7500 foreign students, 154 country, 450 nations and nationalities

2017: 3200 PhD, 100 postdocs. Campus – 8000 students. More than 77 thousand graduates of the University work in 170 countries, among them more than 5500 holders of PhD and Doctorate degrees. Specialists are prepared in 62 majors and lines.

**The University's slogan:
*“Discover the world
within one University!”***

Share of students enrolled in master's and postgraduate programs, who have a bachelor's, specialist's or master's degree awarded by other institutions, in the total number of master's and postgraduate students - 45.2%

Schools and Departments

Agro-Technological Institute; The Institute of Biomedical Problems; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; Engineering Academy Institute of Medicine; Faculty of Science; Philological Faculty; Ecological Faculty; Faculty of Economics ; Institute of Law; Academic Research Institute of Gravitation and Cosmology; Institute of applied techno-economical research and expertise

RUDN University is a multiprofiled university, which integrates research and education in dozens of fields. RUDN encompasses 7 faculties, 10 institutes, 156 scientific and educational laboratories, 4 university-wide research and education centers.

134 PhD programs

PhD programs taught in English 2016 – 11 PhD; 2017 – 28.

Diagnostics of illnesses and therapy of animals, pathology, oncology and morphology of animals

Ecology: Modern environmental studies



Innovation management

Journalism

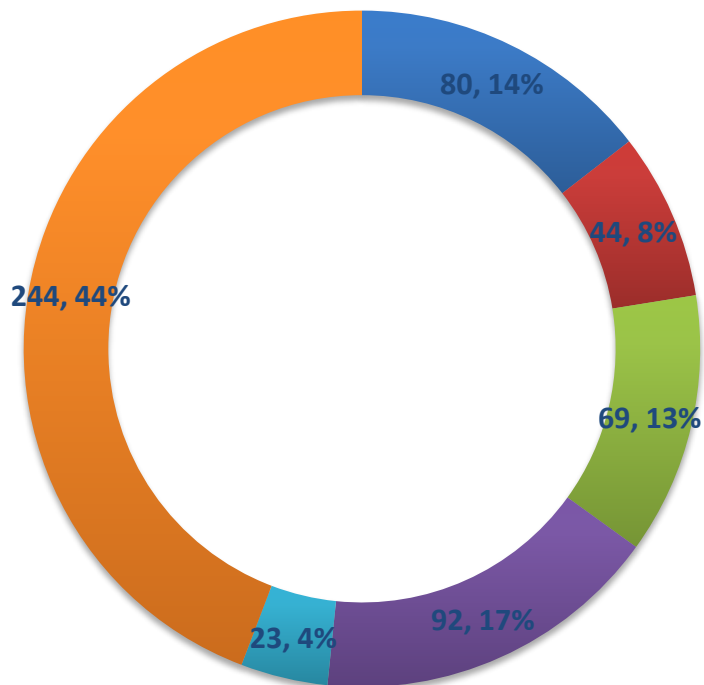
3d Level Programs 2017 - 3321

RF – 2191 (66%)

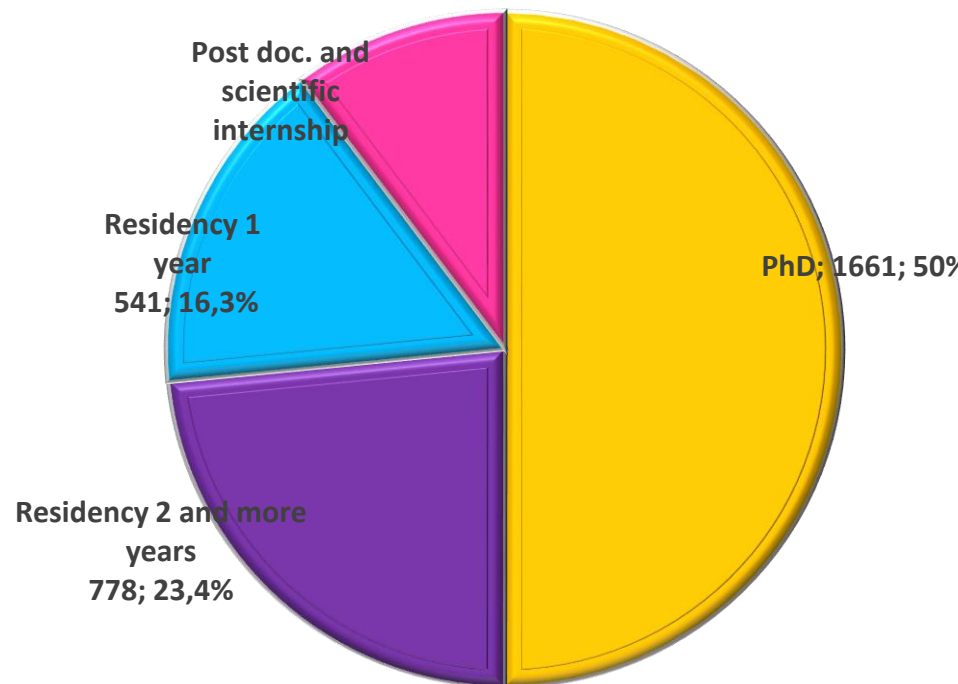
- Scholarship – 1120 (51,1%);
- With payment – 1071 (48,9%)

Other countries – 1130 (34%)

- Scholarship – 598 (52,9%)
- With payment – 532 (47,1%)



■ Asia ■ America ■ Africa ■ Middle East ■ Europe ■ UIS



At the institutional level

1. Management system (Postgraduate department and Heads of doctoral schools).

First, selection criteria - rules for the procedure of appointment and approval of a supervisor: Decision: Scientific Council (not later than three months from the date of enrollment).

Experience of scientific research or research and education for at least 10 years, publications within the field framework of which the supervision will be provided, the Hirsch index is not less than 5.

If the dissertation research is at the interdisciplinary or related scientific fields, two supervisors or a co-supervisor can be appointed.

Second, attestation procedure:

Effective contract with staff.

Regular report together with doctorate at the scientific seminar.

Testing satisfaction.

Annual analysis of PhD Post-graduate effectiveness at the faculties and University Academic council

Finally, supporting best supervisors:

Reward for the result (defense of the thesis in time)

Grants for supervision in English, a joint program, a double or co-supervision.

International oriented programs, joint PhD programs - Excellent trained supervisors and staff:

- High professional level of English language.
- (*Tests and training programs*).
- Research based on topics of admission students countries.
- Strengthening and developing the traditions of doctoral schools
- (*Workshops, mini conferences*)
- High publication activity.
- Planning key indicators for the implementation of programs and for activities for their implementation.
- Digitalization methods (Electronic educational complex, statistics).

- AILC (AL) comprises 5 libraries at faculties in different University buildings with more than 2 million books in 60 languages. Electronic collection includes **audio-**, **videomaterials** and universal and thematic **databases**.
- **Electronic-library system – RUDN ELS**– on-line resource with bibliographic information about the library fund and full texts of books, articles, conference materials and dissertation abstracts.
- **Subscription editions**(magazines) – both printed and electronic versions.
- **Partnership relations** with Moscow State University Academic Library. Students and teach of RUDN and MSU have access to both libraries.



Technologies that help improve the quality of publications

The year 2016 saw the establishment of **RUDN's Scientific Journals and Publishing Activity Promotion Center**. The Center focuses on the following areas: building publishing competencies among faculty members, improving the university's periodical scientific publications to get RUDN's journals included in the Scopus database; creating tools that help increase awareness about scientific publications authored by RUDN researchers.

A system of incentives for supporting the publishing activity of RUDN's faculty members, postgraduates and students in highly cited scientific journals. Financial support goes to the authors of articles with the Scopus SJR indicator at the level of the 1st or 2nd Quartile for the faculty members and not below the 3rd Quartile for postgraduates and students. Researchers are compensated for expenses associated with the publication of their research work (translation, registration fees, etc.).

In 2016, a new **portal of RUDN's scientific journals** was put into operation (www.journals.rudn.ru/). The website provides unrestricted access to full texts and metadata of articles across 22 themed series of the RUDN Bulletin and the University's other journals, including to the archive of publications for the past 15 years. An online document management system for the editorial office makes it possible to accept and send articles for review in electronic format.


2. *Cross-supervision of student research*

- Academic supervisors remain the main “judges” of students’ work. However, senior scholars are also involved in providing guidance for doctoral students at their departments or laboratories.

First, they review students’ individual research plans at the beginning of academic year. At this stage they give advice on research, what conferences or workshops to attend, where to publish, what topic of publication would be most relevant to from the perspective of the international research agenda, what specific editorial requirements are at particular journals, etc.



Second, a code of conduct demands that students submit research results and then - papers for preliminary review by members of department/lab before its submission to a peer-reviewed journal, which provides an additional informal filter in the peer-review process.



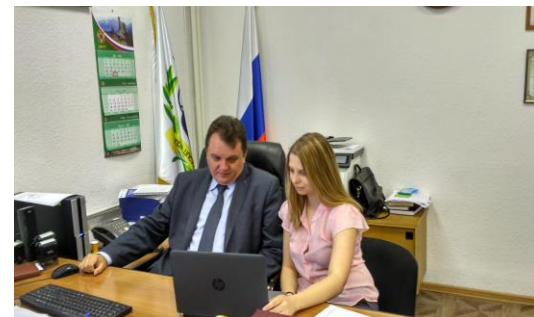
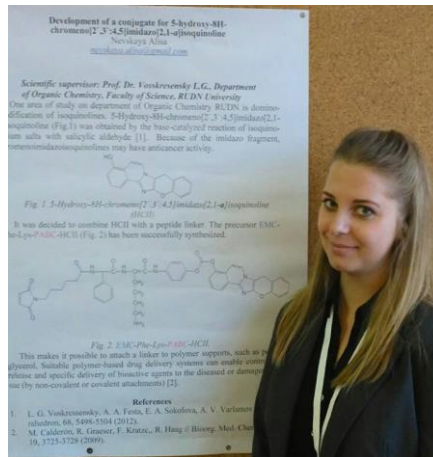
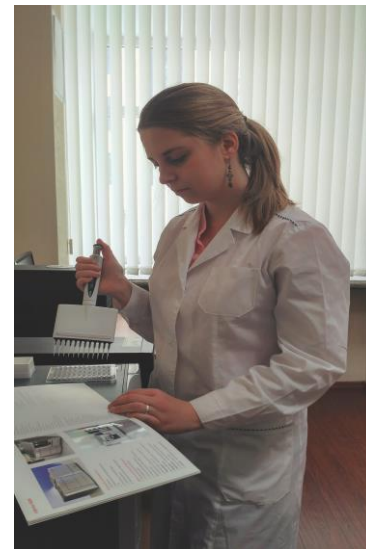
Finally, senior scholars review annual reports by doctoral students and thus have the opportunity to ensure necessary level of quality (ethics also) to detect bad practices (publications in open access journals, self-plagiarism, low research productivity, etc.).

3. Creating new opportunities for improving research performance

- Apart from financial support for the best students and supervisors, some Russian universities have introduced “ **Advanced PhD programs**” that provide students with salaries and more intensive training in research. These programs include courses on advanced methods of research. Additional individual plan. Students are encouraged to participate in international seminars and conferences in order to get feedback from senior scholars. Also, a Advanced PhD program offers a relatively high remuneration for students' research, allowing the students to forgo other employment opportunities. Accordingly, students have more time to conduct research and to write papers, without compromising their integrity for the sake of meeting formal requirements.
- 2016 – **22** ; 2017 - **45** ; 2018 – **97** (Accumulated total)

Prof Voskresenskii L.G. and Alice Nevskaya «Development of a prodrug based on dendritic polyglycerol»

**Prof. Varlamov A.V. with his PhD students:
Samavati Ressa «Synthesis of heterocyclic compounds on the basis of transformations of cyclic imines and their salts»
Kobosev Max «Transformation of condensed tetrahydropyrins with an ethynyl substituent in the α -state with activated alkynes».**



4. Providing support for integration into established research communities

- This measure is especially important in the context of rapid internationalization of Russian universities. The growing share of international students and faculty makes it necessary to develop a comfortable, dual-language environment and to build effective communication among faculty members of different national origin. Cultural or language barriers must not impede progress towards excellence in research.

Experience in the adaptation and integration of foreign students and creating a tolerant multinational environment

RUDN has a support system for foreign students used through their entire tuition period with the University (adaptation mechanisms, accommodation principles, passport and visa support, comprehensive security and healthcare services).

The RUDN campus is organized as a city within the city, providing students with a broad range of services, taking into account the structure of the foreign student body.

Foreign students receive support in their studies from **students-advisers**. If a foreign student is experiencing any issues with certain disciplines, a consultant from among senior students, normally from the same country, or a Russian student that speaks the foreign student's language is assigned to assist the student.

The **tutor service** provides essential support to foreign students both with their training, and in terms of morale building in student hostels, helping them to draft individual training plans, following up on their academic performance, assisting with household issues and interactions with their fellow countrymen and the relevant embassies.

Points for discussion:



- There is no single recipe for successful supervision, but there appear to be three important underpinning capabilities:
- Effective supervisors ensure the progress according to the policies and practices of the university;
- They also reflect on and learn from each interaction, building up a reservoir of experience and wide range of decision-making tools and options;
- They learn from their colleagues, contributing to and building the community of practice for supervision around them.

Points for discussion:



- **“An ideal supervisor is positive, honest, caring, patient and brutal”**
- **“An ideal student is obedient, hardworking, intelligent, motivated and purposeful”.**





RUDN UNIVERSITY