



Universität
Basel

Graduate Center

From Principles to Practice: Shaping the Future of Doctoral Education at the University of Basel



Agenda.

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- 1 Organization of doctoral education at the University of Basel
 - 2 Transferable Skills portfolio
 - 3 Fast Track as a solution to increase mobility
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Principles

i. **The core component of doctoral training is the advancement of knowledge through original research.** At the same time it is recognised that doctoral training must increasingly meet the needs of an employment market that is wider than academia.

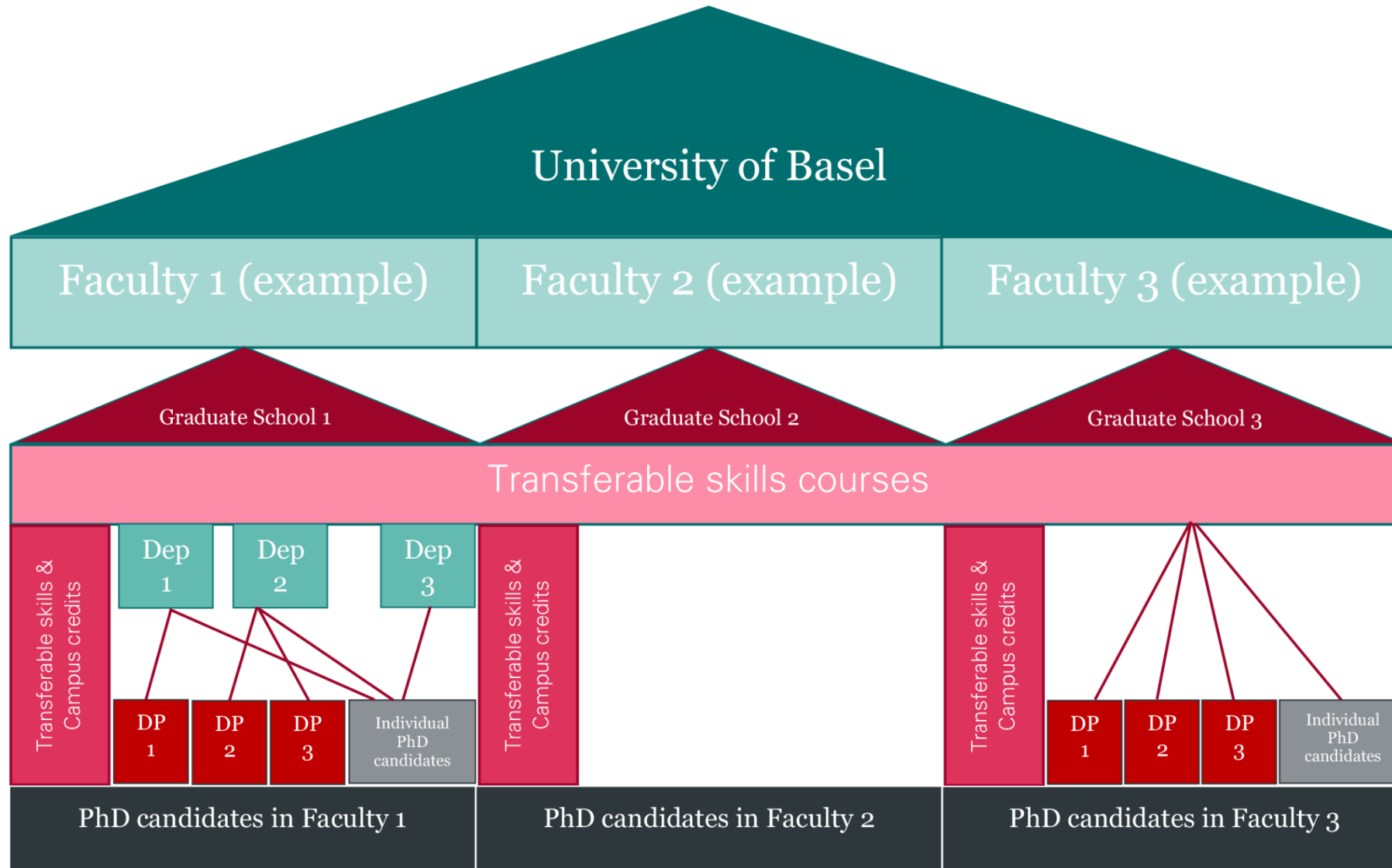
v. **The crucial role of supervision and assessment:** in respect of individual doctoral candidates, arrangements for supervision and assessment should be based on a transparent contractual framework of shared responsibilities between doctoral candidates, supervisors and the institution (and where appropriate including other partners).

vi. **Achieving critical mass:** Doctoral programmes should seek to achieve critical mass and should draw on different types of innovative practice being introduced in universities across Europe, bearing in mind that different solutions may be appropriate to different contexts and in particular across larger and smaller European countries. These range from graduate schools in major universities to international, national and regional collaboration between universities.

viii. **The promotion of innovative structures:** to meet the challenge of interdisciplinary training and the development of transferable skills.

vii. **Duration:** doctoral programmes should operate within an appropriate time duration (three to four years full-time as a rule).

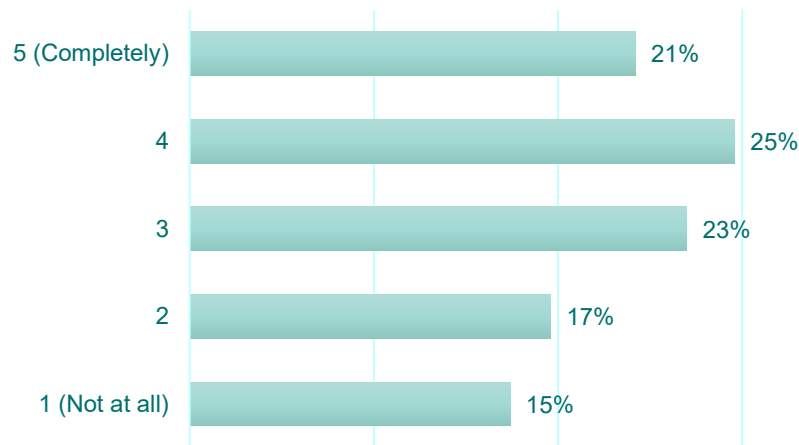
Organization of doctoral education at the University of Basel



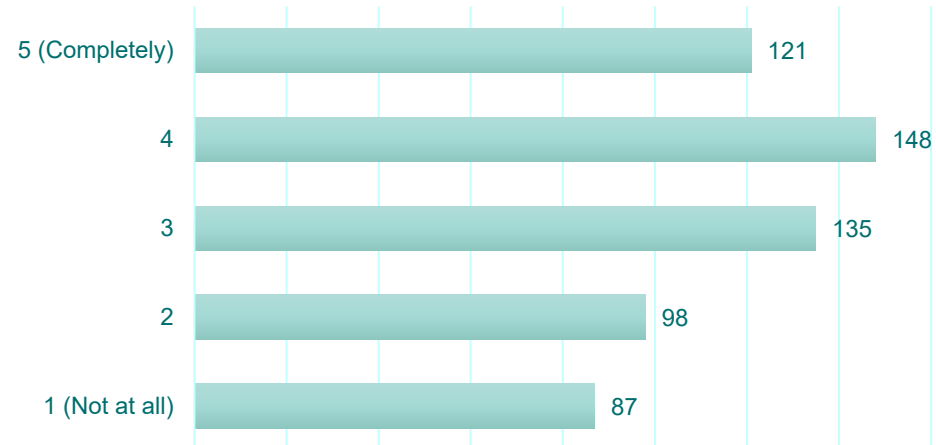
Transferable Skills Portfolio – Background

- Since 2020 regular PhD surveys at departments and faculties
- Since last year, aggregation of core results on a faculty- and university-wide level
- Among aggregated results: PhD candidates' satisfaction supervision and advise
- Satisfaction with support in regards to career planning among the lowest

Support Career Planning




Support Career Planning



- N=811
- 589 answered this question
- 222 abstained from answering

Transferable Skills Portfolio



Transferable Skills Portfolio

NAME



DATUM

PROMOTIONSFACH

GRADUATE SCHOOL / DOKTORATSPROGRAMM

INHALTSVERZEICHNIS UND LISTE DER SKILLS

RAHMENTEXT



Transferable Skills Portfolio

BEZEICHNUNG DES SKILLS

ZEITPUNKT, ORT UND ART DER ANEIGNUNG

INHALTLICHE BESCHREIBUNG

Fast Track as a solution to increase mobility

ix. **Increasing mobility:** Doctoral programmes should seek to offer geographical as well as interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility and international collaboration within an integrated framework of cooperation between universities and other partners.

Goals:

We want to enable international academic careers.

We want to allow flexible pathways through the doctorate.

→ Fast Track(s) as a solution to promote the flexibility of international careers

Fast Track as a solution to increase mobility

What is meant by Fast Track and what is its purpose?

- Reasons for introducing Fast Tracks vary widely: shorten duration of studies, save on tuition, enable an earlier entry into the job market, support top talents etc.
- Fast Track models vary from university to university: Master's degree as a prerequisite, obtained *en route*, or bypassed through a Fast Track program

Guiding principles at the University of Basel:

1. Existing degrees should not be devalued by the Fast Track option.
2. We aim to introduce more flexibility into the existing structures.
3. Discipline-specific requirements should be taken into account (no one-size-fits-all model).

Fast Track as a solution to increase mobility

Three examples of Fast Track implementation recommendations for university units:

- Allow high-performing students to enter a Fast Track pathway during their Master's.
- Allow top Master's students to begin doctoral training early (e.g., count ECTS credits toward PhD later).
- Design Master's theses as groundwork for PhDs, tailored by discipline, yet standalone.



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Thank you for your attention!