

Ethical guidelines for supervision at UiT the Arctic University of Norway

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This is a translation. The Norwegian original has official status.

The guidelines applies to supervision at bachelor- master- and ph.d.-level and are to be enclosed with contract of supervision.

UiT has the superior responsibility for the supervision.

1. The supervisor is to ensure that the student receives good academic support in his/her work.

- a. The academic competence of the supervisor should be made available to the student.
- b. The supervisor should follow the work of the student, and keep updated on the progress.
- c. The supervisor should help the student get in touch with other researchers and research groups with special competence in the relevant field.

2. Both the supervisor and the student are to do their best to ensure a qualitatively good result.

- a. The supervisor should be aware of and take action if a project seems unrealisable, or if there are signs that the student will have problems completing it.
- b. The student must be dedicated to invest necessary time and effort required by the program.
- c. The student must be open and susceptible to suggestions from the supervisor.
- d. If problems arise, the student must give the supervisor complete access to information about the work and its progress, and accept advice from the supervisor at an early stage.

3. The supervisor and the student have a mutual responsibility for the supervision to take place in an acceptable way.

- a. The supervisor is to give the cooperation with the student the priority agreed to when accepting the responsibilities of a supervisor.
- b. The supervisor and the student both have the responsibility to keep regular contact according to the agreement between the two parties.
- c. The supervisor should read the texts submitted by the student as soon as possible.
- d. If the supervisor is unable to read a text immediately, the student must be informed of this, and receive information about when the text will be read.
- e. The supervisor and the student are both responsible for being well prepared for the supervision.
- f. The supervisor must keep to the agreed times for supervision, and make sure that the meeting is undisturbed (turn telephone off etc.).
- g. It is the supervisor's responsibility to provide satisfactory academic support and supervision for the student in the supervisor's absence (during sabbaticals etc).
- h. The student must endeavour to keep deadlines and complete tasks as agreed.
- i. The student must submit texts for reading within a reasonable time before scheduled meeting.

4. Both the supervisor and the student are responsible for carrying out the work with scientific/scholarly integrity.

- a. The supervisor is to impart to the student the basic ethical rules of research relevant to the field.
- b. The supervisor should be aware of, and guide in research ethical questions related to the student's work.

- c The student is to acquaint with and adhere to the research ethical norms within the field and ask for advice from the supervisor if he/she is in doubt.
- d If the supervisor wishes to use the student's data or research results in his/her own publications or research, he/she must get permission from the student and follow the rules of conduct for reference and credit to the contribution of other people's work.
- e The usual rules for co-authorship, as described in national and international guidelines, applies. Being supervisor is not in itself a basis for co-authorship.

5. Both parties must respect the academic and personal integrity of the other party, and refrain from any action or statement that can be perceived as offensive.

- a. The supervisor has the main responsibility for ensuring that supervision takes place in an objective and professional manner, and should be aware of the authority the role of supervisor entails for the student.
- b. The supervisor should refrain from all comments about the student personally, physically or related to gender.
- c. The student should show the same respect for the supervisor as a person.
- d. The supervisor must not use his/her position of authority to take any advantage of the student, or to achieve private favours or services.

6. Personal and confidential information imparted in connection with supervision must be treated confidentially by both parties.

- a. The supervisor should avoid discussing internal, collegial matters with the student.
- b. The supervisor should not discuss the student's affairs with other students.
- c. The student should show the same consideration towards the supervisor.

7. Private relations which are incompatible with the academic relationship should not occur.

- a. It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that the necessary professional distance is kept, and to avoid situations that can lead to it being disturbed.
- b. The supervisor and the student must not be related, or have common private economic interests. Nor are they to have a sexual relation or be in a romantic relationship with each other.
- c. If a romantic relationship should arise, the heads of the department or the faculty must be notified, and the supervision contract be terminated.
- d. If the supervisor and the student are close friends, both parties must be aware of the importance of clear boundaries between the professional and the private spheres.
- e. The supervisor must not accept any form of payment for the supervision apart from what is agreed on with the university.

8. The supervisor and the student have a mutual responsibility for solving conflicts.

- a. Both parties should be able to address problems in the professional relationship or related to the progress of the work, and make an effort to contribute to a constructive solution.
- b. The faculty is responsible for, and must have routines for, solving any conflicts between supervisor and student that the parties cannot solve on their own.
- c. If the supervisor and the student find it necessary to terminate the supervision, it is the faculty's responsibility to handle the change of supervisor in an orderly and satisfactory manner.