

## Evaluation of Third Cycle Education at Department of Physics 2020

The external evaluators have found that, in general, the scientific quality of the environment at the Physics Department of the University of Gothenburg is good and the department has a good scientific reputation and research quality. In particular, the research environment, especially when the whole Gothenburg Physics Center is taken into account, is excellent. They have nevertheless identified some areas where improvements are desirable. They also remark that the implementation of their comments should concentrate on keeping the good aspects while improving the others.

These are the actions we suggest to take in order to address their comments and improve the quality of the PhD education at the Physics Department of the University of Gothenburg:

1. **Synchronize update of ISPs.** All ISPs must be updated once a year at the beginning of the calendar year, typically within weeks 2-6.

Initiator: Director of Graduate Studies.

Participant: PhD Students, Supervisors, Examiners, Head of Department, HR Manager.

Starting in 2020.

2. **Clarify credits and courses to be read by PhD students.** Apply the 2020 Faculty guidelines for credits uniformly across all PhD students.

Responsible person: Director of Graduate Studies.

Starting in 2020.

3. **Clarify the role of the Examiner and other formal aspects of PhD education.** Have a yearly meeting with all PhD students, supervisors and examiner every year to discuss guidelines for credits and formal aspects of examinations. Minutes of this meeting will be taken and made available to all in order to ensure wide distribution of soft knowledge.

Initiator: Director of Graduate Studies.

Participant: PhD Students, Supervisors, Examiners, Head of Department, HR Manager.

Starting in 2020.

4. **PhD Student Board.** Formation of a PhD Student Board of the students at the Physics Department of the University of Gothenburg for consultation of teaching and other Department matters (already formed in February 2020).

Responsible persons: PhD Students.

Starting in 2020.

5. **Increase availability of courses for PhD Students.** This will require: (1) organize PhD courses to be self-learning courses after the first year they are taught; (2) co-organize courses with other departments and universities; (3) introduce general skill courses (possibly in collaboration with other Departments).

Responsible persons: Director of Graduate Studies and Head of Department.

Participant: All Teachers at the Department.

Starting in 2020.

6. **Clear guidelines on whom to contact with questions and problems.** This includes in particular (1) formal requirements related with defending the PhD thesis; (2) problems for incoming international PhD students.

Responsible persons: Director of Graduate Studies, Head of Department and HR Manager.

7. **Weekly seminars by the PhD Students.** Have weekly 25-minute seminars (Monday at lunchtime) where PhD students present their research to the whole department at a layman level. This activity could be organized jointly with the PhD Student Board.

Responsible persons: PhD Student Board, Director of Graduate Studies, Head of Department.

Starting in 2020.

8. **Clarify the half-time checkpoint.** Before the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of PhD studies, there should be a meeting including PhD Student, Supervisor(s), Examiner and Director of Graduate Studies to evaluate the progress of the PhD studies and decide whether this should lead to a Licentiate or an extended presentation of the achievement of the PhD Student.

Initiator: PhD Student, Supervisor(s).

Responsible persons: Director of Graduate Studies and Head of Department.

Starting in 2020.

Note: This evaluation report has been discussed and agreed with both the teachers and PhD students at the Department of Physics. Furthermore, it has been reviewed by PhD Student Council at the Physics Department.