

Supervisor guidelines for accepting a potential doctoral researcher

The DPInvest programme accepts new doctoral researchers only if they have obtained prior commitment from a primary supervisor. The commitment means that a supervisor (together with a secondary supervisor) commits oneself to active supervision for the period of time it takes a student to complete the doctoral degree (approx. 3–4 years of fulltime work). The formal requirements for supervision include planning doctoral studies (Personal Study Plan), helping with applying funding, regular meetings with the student and often co-authorship in the articles that will eventually be part of the final thesis.

The supervisor's commitment is a crucial element in the eligibility of the applicant and in admission to the programme. For this, the programme relies heavily on your subjective evaluation of the potential supervisee, your time commitments, and the match of the applicant's research interests to INVEST.

Steps for making a decision of supervision and giving the supervisor's statement:

1. Applicants have been instructed to contact a maximum of two potential supervisors in INVEST and send an abstract of their research plan and a CV at least one week before the two-week application period begins.

N.B. I If the topic does not match your research profile, you are free to recommend an appropriate supervisor, but this is not required. If you make a recommendation, please communicate clearly that this is not a commitment on this person's behalf.

N.B. II If you are interested in being a secondary supervisor, you can suggest/contact a potential primary co-supervisor interested in this topic to evaluate the proposal and make a commitment.

2. Make sure that the candidate meets the formal criteria, available in <https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/dpinvest/admission>. If you are unsure, ask the doctoral programme coordinator kirsi.tammi@utu.fi.
3. If the initial abstract/research plan is of interest to you, you should arrange a meeting with the applicant. The purpose is to ensure that the applicant has written the research plan, and is able to discuss it, and is willing to adjust the topic and other important parts, e.g., data and methods, even substantially.
4. After this, the applicant should update and, if needed, expand their research plan. Requirements for a research plan are available in the admission criteria of your faculty, see the link above.
5. Make your own subjective evaluation of the skill level of the candidate. For instance, consider whether the person can reach adequate methodological skills to start working on the empirical parts of the thesis after completing the first year in DPInvest:

<https://opas.peppi.utu.fi/en/programme/101939?period=2024-2027> (Soc)
<https://opas.peppi.utu.fi/en/programme/102777?period=2024-2027> (Med)

6. Make your commitment to supervise only after you have revised the updated proposal. The supervisor's commitment can be a separate document or an email from the primary supervisor confirming the supervision of this candidate. The secondary supervisor can also provide a commitment, but this is not required for the application.

Securing funding is very important part of completing a doctoral degree, which is recommended to be emphasised and discussed with the applicant. However, this is not required for the study right in DPInvest. After the first year, you are expected to participate in the Research proposal workshop together with the supervisee. In the following years, you are expected to have annual development discussions to review the progress of the dissertation, in addition to the other supervision meetings.