

SUPERVISING BSc AND MSc STUDENTS

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Contents

In many research groups projects by Bachelor's and Master's students are supervised on a daily or weekly basis by PhD students. Often side projects of the own PhD topic form essential parts of the BSc/MSc work and it is expected by the group leaders to supervise in an adequate manner.

A portfolio of problems and questions can arise during these tasks:

- Who owns the data/results obtained? In which thesis are they supposed to appear?
- How detailed/intense is the supervision supposed to be?
- How is progress communicated to the group leader?
- Is it necessary to help the students writing up their thesis?
- How can time lines and project plans be kept according to the time available?
- What to do when scientific or personal problems occur with the respective student?

This seminar wants to

- Provide the legal background for supervision by PhD students,
- Show methods and communication tools to productively address the above problems,
- Give advice how to solve problems in these tasks,
- Make clear what kind and extent of supervision can/should be expected by the BSc or MSc student,
- And show how and in which way a PhD student can benefit from supervision.

Methods

The exchange of experience and problem-solving approaches will constitute the seminar, as well as role plays on how to react in difficult situations. Furthermore, input will be given on the legal situation and both national and international common practice of this task in the natural sciences.

I would like to invite the participants to send me - prior to the seminar - information on their respective difficulties, so that the content of the seminar can be adapted accordingly.