

Guide for a good student-supervisor relationship: a work in progress

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Student

Both

Supervisor

Before

Realize that a productive PhD is not like any other job but more like high performance sport



Be curious and meet different members of the team to know more about your future environment

Enquire about administrative procedures



Doing an attractive project is good, but doing it with a good relationship with your student/supervisor is better

Find a co-advisor/collaborator when working on a multidisciplinary field

Design PhD projects that can be achieved in 3 years as the doctoral school requests it

Make sure there is enough money available for the student's project

Start

Introduce yourself to the lab (welcome drink?)

Listen to all advice from your supervisor in order to be independent as soon as possible

Time flies! Don't relax too much during the 1st year

Ask about the time-table of your team/lab/doctoral school/PhD Program



Introduce your new student to the lab

Give all the keys to make your student independent as soon as possible

Time flies! Push your student forward from the beginning

Encourage your student to enlarge their culture by attending classes, meetings & PhD Program initiatives

Daily

Report data regularly

Be flexible and remember your boss has lots of other things to do

Be understanding and patient with your supervisor, science is not everything

Don't take refuge in a cave like a bear/with a beer if you need help, ask for it



Plan 'check-point' meetings: establish a roadmap for starting and advancing the project

To validate their PhD, students must take 100 hours of professional & scientific training

Check the first data analysis together to avoid mistakes

Listen & say what is wrong and what is right, don't be shy!

Write the first paper as duet, so that you both benefit from this exercise

Develop a mutual trust

Keep a professional relationship at work, even if you get along well outside

Don't skip follow-up thesis committee meetings. One is mandatory, two is better

Respect hierarchy

Despite all efforts, if it doesn't work, stop the project as early as possible



Try to be available, especially at the beginning

Be understanding and patient with your student, science is not everything



Help your student build their network: congress, communication, visits to other labs, learning opportunities...

Guide your student toward the best qualified people to help them

End

Write the manuscript in time to be corrected step by step

Take a step back and consider the skills acquired during these 3 years

Think about what you want to do after you get your PhD



Look for funding for the well-being of the student's wallet

Plan deadlines to prepare the thesis defence and to write different part of the manuscript

Celebrate the happy ending! (because both of you followed these advices)

Be available to correct the manuscript

Prepare the student for their future. Don't be disappointed if your student does not continue in public research, is a common fate for PhDs nowadays

