

Introduction to Research Supervision

Semester: Spring 2026

Introduction to Research Supervision is a professional development course intended for employees at Stockholm University who have no prior experience of supervising at doctoral level, but who are expected to assume a supervisory role within a year of attending the course. The course requires a half a week of full-time study.

Participants who meet all course requirements will receive a course certificate.

Courses at the Centre for the Advancement of University Teaching (CeUL) are designed to strengthen the basic pedagogical competence required for academic teacher positions. Courses offered by CeUL are aligned with SUHF's, [the association of Swedish higher education institutions, national objectives and recommendations](#) regarding teaching competence. The courses are grounded in research on higher education pedagogy and promote collegial exchange of experience.

Aim and intended learning outcomes

This course introduces aspiring supervisors to the fundamentals of doctoral supervision. It aims to prepare them for their supervisory role. Upon completion, participants are expected to:

- Demonstrate awareness of the responsibilities associated with the doctoral supervisor role
- Reflect on how to build and maintain a professional doctoral student-supervisor relationship

Content and course activities

The course consists of two half-day sessions, required readings, and one written assignment. Attendance at the course meetings is mandatory.

The course covers the following topics:

- Local rules and regulations, with a focus on the individual study plan (ISP) and subject study plan (ASP), and how these govern doctoral education.

- The professional role of the doctoral supervisor, including key responsibilities.
- Strategies for building and maintaining a professional relationship between doctoral students and supervisors.

Obligatory activities and attendance

Participating in both course meetings is mandatory. The course is assessed through an individual written assignment. Course assignments are expected to be completed independently, without undue reliance on generative AI tools. Participants, who successfully complete the course assignment will receive a course certificate.

Participants with disabilities may request adapted course assignments if needed, in consultation with the course coordinator well in advance of the course start.

Literature

The literature consists of a selection of research articles, which will be provided prior to the start of the course.

Course leader/s

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