

PHD SUPERVISION SEMINAR: Next level

For experienced PhD supervisors at SUND, UCPH

19-20 November 2026, Marienlyst Hotel, Helsingør.

Teaser

Are you a busy research supervisor looking for strategies on how to make your supervision even more efficient and fruitful? And would you like to get inspiration from other experienced supervisors? Then you will find this advanced seminar very relevant. The setting is a two-day residential course, and the teaching form is highly interactive, tailored specifically to your needs, and based on sharing local best practices among experienced supervisors at SUND, KU. The seminar is facilitated by two internationally leading educational developers within the field of PhD supervision. We are looking forward to taking supervision to the next level together with you!

Purpose

The main purpose of the seminar is to support scholarly based reflections and exchange of best practices among experienced supervisors at SUND to ensure a high quality PhD education. The purpose is also to increase participants' awareness of their role as culture bearers and research leaders while being PhD supervisors.

Target group

Experienced supervisors who have supervised at least five PhD students. Alternatively, you may have co-supervised many PhD students or gained other relevant experience.

Number of participants: Min 12, Max 24.

Learning goals

After the seminar you are able to:

- balance a multitude of dilemmas in supervision
- solve concrete challenges in close collaboration with your colleagues and rely on your own judgement in critical cases
- ask questions that promote your PhD students' independent thinking and ownership
- prevent, address and mediate potential conflicts on an individual and group level
- use the research community as a resource in supervision and to orchestrate different interests and expectations in a group
- support PhD students' well-being and role-model an appropriate work-life balance in academia
- formulate a strategy for how to continuously develop your PhD supervision practice

Teaching format

The basis of the seminar is your experiences and best practices, and therefore, the teaching form is highly interactive and composed of many formats: short presentations by the teachers/facilitators, plenary discussions, group exercises, casework, walk-and-talk, Forum Theatre and participant presentations. Presentations by the facilitators will focus on providing a range of research-based tools applicable to the participants' practice.

PROGRAM

1. seminar day (November 19, 2025, 9.00-17.15, dinner at 18.30)

08.45 **Arrival, coffee & tea**

09.00 **Welcome**

Course introduction and presentation in groups

09.20 **Optimising your supervision: Learning from experience**

Reflection on your supervisor role based on previous experiences:

- What characterises your current supervision?
- How has it changed over the years?
- What are your greatest challenges and how would you like to develop your supervision?

We discuss how to build a trustful relationship, handle asymmetry and to balance support, direction and student independence based on your cases and models from the PhD supervision literature.

12.00 Lunch

13.00 **Inspiring each other: Sharing best practices**

This session is based on participants' input about their own best practices. Participant presentations will be followed by plenary discussions and scholarly input from the facilitators based on PhD supervision literature. Possible themes:

- Team supervision
- How to organize effective supervision meetings
- How to promote and support scientific writing
- Motivating PhD students and the research group
- Help the PhD student stay productive
- Giving constructive feedback
- Terminating students – when and how?

14.15 **Walk-and-talk followed by coffee/tea break**

15.00 **How to support PhD students' well-being**

The Head of Graduate School at KU SUND, Rikke Buhl, will present local data, challenges and support structures to promote PhD students' well-being at KU SUND. She will invite for a plenary discussion including your best practices and challenges regarding PhD students' well-being.

15.50 Bio-break

16.00 **Take care of yourself and you can take care of your students**

Striking a balance between thriving and working hard is not always easy. It is a balance that supervisors need to find in their own professional lives as well as in their way of supporting students. We will discuss how it is possible to act as a role model for striking a sustainable work-life balance and how to address well-being both on an individual and on a group level.

The format is based on both casework and sharing best practices

17.15 Free time

18.30 **Dinner**

2. seminar day (November 20, 2025, 8.30-15.00):

08.30 **Managing and mediating conflicts**

Conflicts and personality clashes may complicate PhD projects that could have been inspiring and productive. Inspired by your cases the facilitators will develop scenes that represent common conflicts in PhD supervision to be played and reflected in a role play. Finally, conflict theory is introduced and tools to mediate conflicts both at individual and group level are presented.

10.30 **Break**

10.45 **Open theme**

12.00 **Lunch**

13.00 **How to create an ideal research environment?**

As a supervisor and maybe research group leader you have great influence on the work culture. The work culture includes practices and norms for how to meet, provide feedback, collaborate, and share research. These issues are important to focus on because they correlate with students' well-being, productivity, progress and satisfaction. We address, among other things:

- How do you support peer-interaction among PhD students?
- In what way do you think of the research community as a resource in your own supervision?
- How do you ensure that competition is not in the way of collaboration?
- How to allocate tasks and responsibility in a research group?

This session is based on input from the literature and your best practices.

Break included

14.40 **Wrap up of the seminar**

Individual reflection on your future developmental goals as a supervisor followed by group discussions, including a possibility for taking part in facilitated community building among participants after the course.

15.00 **Closing of the seminar**