

Eawag lunch time seminar on 'Eawag grad studies issues'

June 09, 2011

Participants: members of the Eawag conference and members of the Eawag Grad studies executive committee.

Chair: Martin Ackermann

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Eawag grad studies issues

Goals:

Discuss current and recurring issues on grad studies at Eawag

Inform about recent changes

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Eawag grad studies issues

Eawag is special

- PhD students from >4 ETHs and universities
- Eawag is the employer, does not grant degrees
- Student - supervisor - advisor

Support for PhD issues (see intranet)

- for students: Ombudpersons: Tobias Sommer and Alexandra Huber
- 'Ombudsprofessors': Jukka Jokela, Bernhard Wehrli
- 'Grad studies executive committee'. Contact Martin.Ackermann@eawag.ch

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Eawag grad studies issues

Issues discussed today come from

- Feedback from PhD Ombudpersons
- Meeting of the 'Grad studies executive committee'
- Meeting with all PhD students (dec 2010)
- Directorate/HR

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Topics

- 1) employment after the PhD
- 2) research plan
- 3) participation of students in international conferences.
- 4) communication between student, supervisor, and advising professor
- 5) PhD committees

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1) employment after the PhD

A) employing your own PhD student

In special cases, a PhD student can continue working in the same group for 6 months (to finish a project and submit publications)

Funding comes from the group (not Eawag)

~~Same salary as at the end of the PhD~~

Employment is as 'PhD student' for the period between PhD defense and the issuing of the official PhD degree document. After issuing the official PhD document, employment is as 'postdoc'. (clarifications added June 14 2011)

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1) employment after the PhD

B) employing a postdoc 'without degree'

If the postdoc that you want to hire does not yet have an official degree document

- initial employment as "wissenschaftlicher Assistent 3", at a WA3-salary
- Employment as postdoc when HR receives degree

Caution: there are contingents for "wissenschaftlicher Assistent", and obtaining working permits can be slow and difficult

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2) research plan

Directive No. 10-09

- draft after 3 months
- final version after 6 months (student, supervisor and advisor)
- precondition for passing the trial period
- ETH: submit final version after 12 months

Major modifications to the research plan

- discussion between student, supervisor and advisor

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3) conference participation

Some student cannot attend 'enough' conferences

What expectations are reasonable?

No support from ETH and Eawag

Discuss expectations early

Funding:

- Grant that supports PhD student
- Department
- Other third party funding

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4) student - supervisor - advisor

Potentially divergent expectations between

- a) student and supervisor
- b) degree granting university, PhD advisor
- c) funding agency

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4) student - supervisor - advisor

Potentially divergent expectations between

- a) student and supervisor
- b) degree granting university, PhD advisor
- c) funding agency

Discuss expectations and requirements explicitly and early

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4) student - supervisor - advisor

Discuss expectations and requirements explicitly and early

- committee
- form and frequency of support
- form and frequency of reporting
- duration
- output
- conference visits

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5) PhD committees

Not directly regulated by Eawag, but possibly by the degree-granting university.

Very positive feedback from the departments that have PhD committees.

Bottom line

Eawag is special

- 1) student - supervisor- advisor
- 2) applied vs. more basic research

Explicit discussion of expectations and requirements

Early and regular discussions