

Funding for time spent on PhD supervision

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FSS asks supervisors to devote sufficient time to supervision. The elaboration of this is documented in 'Standards of supervising PhD candidates by academic staff'. Arrangements for reimbursement or compensation for time spent on PhD supervision are made with the department head. For FSS staff members, supervision is considered a regular task, which can be financed from five sources.

1. First-stream funding based on realized PhD graduations; through the national, VU and FSS distribution models, funds are allocated first to departments and then to staff as a whole as part of the research parameter;
2. First-stream funding for education; the monetary value of education provided by employee PhDs is used to finance a faculty fee (the faculty regulation is part of the FSS Teaching Norm Model (TNM), including the allocation of time for non-teaching tasks); this fee is allocated first to departments and then to the individual staff member;
3. Second or third-stream funding when a PhD project is part of the funded “parent” project and the PhD supervisor is PI or post-doc researcher and performs funded tasks in the project;
4. Funding for research through the first or any other funding stream: it is an activity appropriate within the task of research, where supervising PhD candidates also serves the interest of the supervisor, and where the staff member has a more or less free choice to do this as part of her or his research. The supervisor’s interest is that
 - a) the PhD candidate works in a research field in which the supervisor specializes, and in this way broadens the supervisor’s “scope”; and/or
 - b) the PhD candidate contributes, via the thesis and any resulting articles, to research output that contributes to the supervisor’s academic status; and/or
 - c) the supervision contributes to the supervisor’s career in which it is important to have experience in supervising PhD research;
5. The tuition fee paid by the individual candidate, from the fellowship awarded to the candidate, or by the employer of the candidate.

For many candidates, a combination of sources is used to enable supervision by the supervisors. The sources of funding are usually not specified by project, but globally at the department level where it is possible that funding from projects may be offset between them. Depending on the policy of the department, there is a generic decision on the start of the projects, or permission is given per project, or it is a hybrid form. In any case, the Graduate School requires the approval of the department head to admit a candidate and thus to start the project. It is assumed that the supervisor and the department head have determined before accepting the candidate that the “sum” of these sources fits in the departmental policy and is thus sufficient for adequate supervision. This takes into account that the situation may change, for example that the PhD project unexpectedly takes longer, or that at the end of the supervisor’s employment the supervision is continued. Thus, those events cannot result in a “claim” of compensation by a supervisor.