

A study of thesis and supervision outcomes at Uppsala University

Thank you for wanting to participate in the survey!

The survey is about your experiences of writing a thesis and receiving thesis supervision at Uppsala University. We are targeting both those who have finished their thesis, and those who have started the work with their thesis and had at least two meetings with their supervisor, but not yet completed it. All responses are equally important. Participation is voluntary, but your participation and experiences are important to ensure the validity of the results. Movie tickets will be raffled off to some of those who complete the survey.

The study has been reviewed by the Swedish Ethical Review Authority. More information about the research project and your rights as a participant in the study can be found in the document "Information to research participants":

https://www.statsvet.uu.se/digitalAssets/992/c_992114-l_1-k_information-to-research-participants-2024.pdf

The survey takes 10-15 minutes to answer. If you are using your smartphone it is easier if you turn it so that the screen is horizontal. If you want move forward or backward in the survey to update an answer, please use the "Back" and "Next" button at the bottom of the page. Do not use the buttons on your browser as your previous answers will be lost.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions or need assistance.

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* Indicates required question

By ticking the box below, you give your consent to:

- * Participating in the study on thesis and supervision outcomes at Uppsala University
- * That the information you give about yourself is stored and used in the way described in the information to research participants.
- * That you have been given, and can keep, written information about the study and have the opportunity to ask questions.

1. To participate, give your consent by ticking the box below and then continue to the next page. *

Check all that apply.

☐ I give my consent

We begin by asking some questions about you.

2. Please enter your e-mail address.

If you want to participate in the raffle for movie tickets, we need your e-mail address. We also need it if you want to have your data erased. Your contact information will be saved separately from your survey responses. You can at any time, and without giving any reasons, request that your contact details and survey responses be deleted (via e-mail to Johanna.soderstrom@statsvet.uu.se). We will then immediately delete them.

3. Which year were you born? *

4. What is your gender?

With gender we mean you gender identity, that is the gender you yourself identify with.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education that any of your parents completed?

Please mark the response option that fits best.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Not completed compulsory school
- ☐ Completed compulsory school
- ☐ Upper secondary school or similar
- ☐ Post-secondary education, not university
- ☐ University
- ☐ Don't know

6. Where were you and your biological parents born?

Mark only one oval per row.

	Sweden	Another European country	North America, Australia or New Zealand	Central- or South America	Africa or the Middle East	Asia
You	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your father	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your mother	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Where did you complete your upper secondary school education or similar (before starting university)?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ In Sweden
- ☐ In another country

In the next section we will ask some questions about your thesis.

8. What is the last thesis you started or completed at Uppsala University? *

By "started" we mean that you have been assigned a supervisor and have had at least two supervision meetings. Please choose the option that best fits your situation.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Bachelor thesis
- ☐ Master's thesis
- ☐ 'Magister' thesis
- ☐ Not yet started *Skip to question 53*

The questions below are concerned with your **most recently** written thesis at Uppsala University.

9. How long was the thesis course? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 10 weeks/half a semester (15 credits)
- ☐ 20 weeks/one semester (30 credits)

10. At what department did you take the thesis course? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Department of Informatics and Media *Skip to question 12*
- ☐ Department of Business Studies *Skip to question 13*
- ☐ Department of Government *Skip to question 12*
- ☐ Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies (IRES) *Skip to question 12*
- ☐ Other: _____

Another department

11. Did you also write a thesis at one of the following departments? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Department of Informatics and Media *Skip to question 12*
- ☐ Department of Business Studies *Skip to question 13*
- ☐ Department of Government *Skip to question 12*
- ☐ Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies (IRES) *Skip to question 12*
- ☐ No *Skip to question 14*

If you answered **yes**, we ask you to focus on the thesis you wrote at one of these departments when you answer the rest of the survey.

Department of Government, Department of Informatics and Media, Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies

12. In what field did you write the thesis? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Political Science
- ☐ Development Studies
- ☐ Russian and Eurasian Studies
- ☐ Information Systems
- ☐ Media and Communication Studies
- ☐ Human-Computer Interaction
- ☐ Other: _____

Skip to question 14

Department of Business Studies

13. In what field did you write the thesis? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Financial accounting
- ☐ International Business and Marketing
- ☐ Management and Control
- ☐ Sustainable Management
- ☐ Entrepreneurship
- ☐ International and European Law and Business
- ☐ Business and Management - International Business
- ☐ Business and Management - Marketing
- ☐ Business and Management - Organization
- ☐ Accounting and Financial Management - Financial Management
- ☐ Accounting and Financial Management - Accounting, Governance and Financial Management
- ☐ Accounting and Financial Management - Strategic Management Control
- ☐ Accounting and Financial Management – Financial Accounting
- ☐ Accounting and Financial Management – Management Control
- ☐ Other: _____

Skip to question 14

Details about the thesis course and your thesis

14. Where was the thesis course primarily conducted? *

By 'primarily' we mean more than half of the activities, such as lectures, seminars, and supervision meetings.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ On campus (Uppsala)
- ☐ On campus (Gotland)
- ☐ Online (Uppsala)
- ☐ Online (Gotland)

15. To what extent did you use quantitative methods in your thesis? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ Mainly

16. Did you collect new empirical data (i.e. primary data) for your thesis, through interviews, focus groups, surveys, experiments or similar? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

17. Did you collect data for your thesis during a stay abroad? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

18. Did you collect data for your thesis as part of a placement with a company, government agency, other organization or as part of a research project? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, with a company, government agency or other organization
- ☐ Yes, as part of a research project conducted by a researcher at the university

19. If you wrote your thesis with another student, how satisfied were you with your cooperation?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- ☐ Dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ I wrote my thesis alone

20. When did you start working on your thesis? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 2021 or earlier
- ☐ 2022, spring semester
- ☐ 2022, fall semester
- ☐ 2023, spring semester
- ☐ 2023, fall semester

21. About how many semesters did it take to finish your thesis? *

Usually, half a semester (10 weeks) is set aside for a bachelor thesis and one full semester (20 weeks) for a master thesis. Please select the option that best reflects the number of semesters it took you to finish your last thesis at Uppsala University. If you have not yet finished your last thesis, please select "Not finished".

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Half a semester
- ☐ One semester
- ☐ Two semesters
- ☐ Three or more semesters
- ☐ Not finished

22. When was your thesis last examined? *

If your thesis has not yet been examined, please select that response option.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 2021 or earlier
- ☐ 2022, spring semester *Skip to question 23*
- ☐ 2022, fall semester *Skip to question 23*
- ☐ 2023, spring semester *Skip to question 23*
- ☐ 2023, fall semester *Skip to question 23*
- ☐ 2024, spring semester (note, the semester started on January 15)
 Skip to question 23
- ☐ The thesis has not yet been examined *Skip to question 24*

Thesis grade

23. What grade did you receive on your thesis when it was examined? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Fail (U)
- ☐ Pass (G)
- ☐ Pass with distinction (VG)
- ☐ The thesis has not been examined yet

Thesis work

24. During the period you worked on your thesis, what share of your time did you spend on the thesis? *

We assume that 100% is the equivalent of 8 hours of thesis work per work day, 75% is the equivalent of 6 hours of thesis work per work day, whereas 50% is the equivalent of 4 hours per work day and 25% is 2 hours per work day. If your working hours varied, please choose the option that best reflects your average working hours over the entire period.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 0%
- ☐ 25%
- ☐ 50%
- ☐ 75%
- ☐ 100%

25. Did you take up employment or take other courses while working on your thesis? *

If you took up employment or took other courses while working on your thesis, please select the option that best reflects the average working time spent on employment and other courses.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ No work/No other courses
- ☐ Employment/Other courses 25%
- ☐ Employment/Other courses 50%
- ☐ Employment/Other courses 75%
- ☐ Employment/Other courses 100%

26. How many of the lectures or information sessions on the thesis course did you take part of?

Please include online and on campus lectures, pre-recorded lectures, as well as other information sessions during the course. Write whole number.

27. What themes were covered in these lectures or sessions? Please check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Formulating a research question
- ☐ How to write about theory and previous research
- ☐ Literature searches
- ☐ Quantitative methods
- ☐ Qualitative methods
- ☐ Academic writing
- ☐ Handling references
- ☐ Time management
- ☐ Your role as opponent
- ☐ I did not attend any lectures
- ☐ Other: _____

28. Would you have wanted more training and knowledge in any of these same themes before writing your thesis? Please check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Formulating a research question
- ☐ How to write about theory and previous research
- ☐ Literature searches
- ☐ Quantitative methods
- ☐ Qualitative methods
- ☐ Academic writing
- ☐ Handling references
- ☐ Time management
- ☐ The role as opponent
- ☐ Other: _____

We now turn to asking you questions about how you experienced working on your thesis.

29. To what extent do you agree with the following statements: "My thesis project..."

*

Mark only one oval per row.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
...further developed my problem-solving skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...taught me to develop my ideas and present them in my written work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...sharpened my analytical skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...helped me to develop my ability to plan my own work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. We also wonder to what extent you agree with the following statements: "As a result of my thesis project..." *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
...I am more interested in research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...I feel more curious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...I feel confident about tackling unfamiliar problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. And to what extent do you agree with the following statements: "As a result of my thesis project..." *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
...I more often apply new information to an existing problem to see if that helps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...I try more often to learn as much as I can in new situations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

We now turn to asking some questions about the thesis supervision that you received when working on your thesis.

32. Which of these supervisor setups best applies to your case? I had:

Here, we do not refer to the opponent/opposition supervisor at the final seminar, even if you had such a person.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ One supervisor only
- ☐ Two supervisors from the same department
- ☐ Two main supervisors from different departments
- ☐ One main supervisor and one contact person at a company/organization
- ☐ Other: _____

33. To what extent would you say the following individuals influenced your thesis work?

Mark only one oval per row.

	To a very great extent	To a great deal	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	I had no such person
Main academic supervisor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assistant academic supervisor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contact at a company/organization	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opposition/Opponent supervisor at final seminar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Examiner (the person who graded the thesis)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you had several supervisors, please focus on the academic supervisor who provided the most supervision when you answer the following questions. We will refer to this person as your “main academic supervisor”. If you had only one academic supervisor, we also refer to this person as your “main academic supervisor”.

34. What position did your main academic supervisor have, as far as you know?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Teacher/Researcher at my department
- ☐ PhD student at my department
- ☐ Teacher/Researcher at another department/university
- ☐ Not a university employee
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other: _____

35. What was the gender of your main academic supervisor? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Don't know

36. How well would you say that your main academic supervisor's expertise matched your thesis subject?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Slightly
- ☐ Moderately well
- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Extremely well

Questions about the thesis supervision that you received when working on your thesis.

In the questions that follow, please focus on both your academic supervisors, if you had two.

37. In your assessment, how many meetings did you have with your academic supervisor(s), where only your thesis was discussed (individual supervision)? *

Please include physical meetings, digital meetings, as well as meetings over the phone. If you did not have any such meetings, write "0".

38. In your assessment, how many meetings did you have with your academic supervisor(s), where multiple theses were discussed (group supervision)? *

Please include physical meetings, digital meetings, as well as meetings over the phone. If you did not have any such meetings, write "0".

39. Did you prepare for your supervision meetings in writing, for instance by submitting thesis text or by listing questions for discussion? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ At about half of the supervision meetings
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Every time

40. How often did your academic supervisor(s) give you written feedback, for example via e-mail or by inserting comments in your text? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ At about half of the supervision meetings
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Every time

41. Did you and your academic supervisor(s) make a plan for the supervision's structure and content at the beginning of the thesis course? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

42. How much attention did your academic supervisor(s) devote to the following aspects of the thesis? *

Mark only one oval per row.

	None at all	Little	Some	Much	A great deal
Formulating the research problem and research question	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Previous research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Theory and analytical tools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Methods, material and research design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

43. And how much attention did the academic supervisor(s) devote to the following aspects?

*

Mark only one oval per row.

	None at all	Little	Some	Much	A great deal
Analysis and results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outline and a clear line of argument in the presentation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Language and formatting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

44. How much attention did your academic supervisor(s) devote to informing you about ways to increase the efficiency of your work process? *

Mark only one oval per row.

	None at all	Little	Some	Much	A great deal
Time management and deadlines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating concrete goals linked to the different parts of the thesis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Writing process, for example how to organize the text with the help of headings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Methods to search for and quickly get an overview of previous research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Methods for moving forward when the work feels heavy, for example to start with simpler and smaller tasks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

45. Is there something else your academic supervisor(s) paid much attention to?

Next, we ask a number of questions about the dynamics between you and your supervisor. Please focus on your main academic supervisor, when answering these questions. With main academic supervisor, we mean the academic supervisor that supervised you the most.

46. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the supervision that you received? Please select the option that fits best. "My supervisor..." *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Don't know
...gave me clear guidance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... supported me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...was impatient towards me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... demanded a lot from me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Here are some additional statements about the dynamics between you and your main academic supervisor.

47. My supervisor... *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Don't know
...was unclear during our conversations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...was dissatisfied about my progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...listened to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...allowed me to make my own decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

48. My supervisor... *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Don't know
... immediately corrected me if I did something wrong	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...gave thorough feedback on my work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...was indecisive about my initiatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...followed my proposals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

49. My supervisor... *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Don't know
...believed that I was untrustworthy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...reacted enthusiastically about my initiatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...thought I knew nothing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

50. Was there anyone besides your academic supervisor(s) who helped you with your thesis work, for example by reading and commenting on parts of the text or by giving advice on methods for analysis, language, reference management or something else? *

Please select all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Yes, another student
- ☐ Yes, a parent or friend outside of the university
- ☐ Yes, a librarian at the university
- ☐ Yes, the Language Workshop at the university
- ☐ Yes, the Statistics Consultancy Service at the university
- ☐ Yes, the course convener
- ☐ Yes, the office hours offered by the course
- ☐ Yes, someone other than those already mentioned
- ☐ No, no one

51. How often would you say that students use tools such as ChatGTP to support their thesis writing? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Always

52. This is the last question of the survey. If you took a course in methods before writing your thesis, at what level was the course and what grade did you receive? *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Fail	Pass	Pass with distinction	Did not take the course	I don't remember
Methods course at the bachelor level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Method course at the master level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Skip to question 53

To register your answers, please click on "Submit" below.

In order for your answers to be registered, please click on "Submit" below. The previous question concludes the survey on thesis and supervision outcomes at Uppsala University. If you have any questions about the study, you are welcome to contact the responsible researchers Johanna Söderström (johanna.soderstrom@statsvet.uu.se) or Moa Mårtensson (moa.martensson@statsvet.uu.se) at Uppsala University.

If you have any comments on this survey or other comments, you are welcome to write them in the text field below. If you want answers to your questions, please send us an e-mail instead.

53. Comment:

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