

University of Lodz

Narutowicza 68

90-136 Łódź

## EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN DOCTORAL CANDIDATE AND SUPERVISOR

**Date:** 20 November 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
21 November 8:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

**Duration and format:** 15 training hours (45 minutes each), workshop format, held in person.

**The aim of the course** is to strengthen skills in effective collaboration with the doctoral dissertation supervisor, based on national and international quality standards related to the preparation and defence of dissertations. The knowledge acquired will support doctoral candidates in building strong professional relationships with both primary and auxiliary supervisors, and will also serve as a foundation for the proper functioning of young researchers within the academic environment. The material developed will also prove useful during the writing of the dissertation – both in working on its structure and content.

**Benefits for participants:** Doctoral candidates will consolidate their knowledge of the fundamental aspects of collaboration between a candidate and a supervisor, taking into account the needs and responsibilities of both parties as well as the roles they assume. In addition, early-career researchers will learn and practise effective methods of communication between mentor and mentee, with particular emphasis on conducting discussions of academic topics. A series of exercises will enable participants to define the key goals and components of the dissertation. Upon completing the course, participants will be able to justify the chosen structure of their dissertation, as well as link their adopted assumptions and methods with elements of originality in their research – the essential basis for submitting the dissertation for defence.

**Description:** Since Poland adopted the provisions of the Bologna Declaration (19 June 1999) and acceded to the European Union (1 May 2004), the requirements placed on Polish doctoral candidates regarding the concept and content of their dissertations have not differed from the guidelines in force in other EU countries and worldwide. The doctoral degree, described at level 8 of the Polish Qualifications Framework, reflects the characteristics set out in EU documentation (the European Qualifications Framework – EQF). Consequently, Polish institutions have joined global trends in the development of training young researchers, who today constitute the most professionally specialised group of employees within the academic ecosystem. Quality standards related to the preparation of dissertations have been unified, though the means of achieving them remain within the remit of EU member states, allowing for various forms of developing and strengthening research competences.

The introduction of the *Constitution for Science* and the establishment of doctoral schools has modernised previous forms of cooperation between supervisors and doctoral candidates,

though it has not eliminated the obvious challenges associated with introducing doctoral students to the intricacies of academic work. This course addresses the needs of both mentors and their mentees, organising administrative requirements, available tools and techniques, as well as tried and tested approaches to working on the dissertation. The proposed solutions, relating to the criteria of research originality, dissertation structure, the building of a hierarchy of objectives and the construction of sound arguments, have been verified and confirmed in collaboration with both Polish and international institutions. The trainer's expertise is based on her own academic experience and publications, including a handbook aimed at researchers. In addition, for the past eight years Dr Justyna Małkuch-Świtalska has successfully conducted structural supervisions of doctoral dissertations in various disciplines, supporting young scholars in planning and carrying out research, as well as in applying for the award of the doctoral degree.

The classes are delivered in an interactive format, making use of a variety of teaching methods. Participants are expected to have a command of English sufficient to engage with the materials and to take an active part in the sessions.

### **Course Schedule:**

1. Collaboration between supervisor and doctoral candidate – an effective tandem or a bicycle without wheels?
2. Techniques and tools for successful academic collaboration.
3. From inspiration to creativity: sources and basic principles.
4. Guidelines for preparing the dissertation – doctoral school, national and international quality standards.
5. Proper structure of the doctoral dissertation.
6. The content of individual parts of the dissertation – how to develop it in line with the supervisor's guidance?