



Universitatea
Politehnica
București



Facultatea de
Automatică și
Calculatoare



Catedra de
Calculatoare

Quality Assurance at the PhD level Students' View

Costin CHIRU

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Requirements for a good PhD

- **Good teacher**: capable of advising the student and having the time to do it
- **Good student**: motivated in finishing the PhD and having the knowledge for this
- **Interesting topic**: actual and important
- **Good board**: for guiding and evaluating the student's progress



PhD in Students' View (1)

- **Task 1: Find a reliable professor that agrees to be your PhD advisor:**
 - Good relationship during BSc/MSc
 - Relevant for your domain of interest
 - Good explanation skills
 - Strong research background
 - Patient, but also pushy when needed
 - Available



PhD in Students' View (2)

- **Task 2: Pass the exam to become a PhD student:**
 - *General knowledge exam* to prove that you're worthy
 - *Intention Letter* to show that you know the field to some extent and that you are aware of what you are supposed to do next
 - Maybe obtain a scholarship



PhD in Students' View (3)

- **Task 3: Establish the topic of the PhD:**
 - Negotiate with the advisor about a topic that is:
 - Interesting for both you and the advisor
 - Within the scope of expertise of the advisor
 - Not enough researched
 - “En vogue”
 - Potential for generating better results than the existing ones
 - If possible, industry inspired



PhD in Students' View (4)

- **Task 4: Establish the collaboration type:**
 - Employed by the University or not
 - Full time / Part-time employee
 - Research done at the University / Company / home



PhD in Students' View (5)

- **Task 5: Pass three specific exams:**
 - Topics negotiated with the advisor to spread the knowledge / expertise of the PhD candidate (topics that were not learnt during BSc & MSc)
 - Individual learning starting from a curricula decided by the advisor
 - Classes taught at the MSc level that were not taken by the student
 - During first 3-6 months of the PhD
 - Evaluated by a commission established by the advisor (advisor + 2 PhDs from the field of the PhD thesis)



PhD in Students' View (6)

- **Task 6: Evolution reports every 6 months:**
 - In front of the same commission (that is responsible for the PhD candidate evolution)
 - If the results are not acceptable, the report is rejected and it has to be presented again, until acceptance
 - Way to verify that the student is on his/her track
 - Way to obtain feedback from the commission



PhD in Students' View (7)

- **Task 7: Publish results:**
 - At least 3 ISI full papers
 - At least 1 journal paper in the University's journal (indexed ISI)
 - The more / better quality papers, the better grade will be obtained at the end of PhD



PhD in Students' View (7)

- **Task 7: Write the thesis:**
 - Thesis is not a sum of the published papers
 - Should have a consistent research line
 - The novelty and results of the thesis are evaluated when deciding the value of the PhD (→ grade)
 - Avoid plagiarism → anti-plagiarism mechanism available at the University level



PhD in Students' View (8)

- **Task 8: Defend the thesis:**
 - Internal defense:
 - Within the department where he did the PhD in order to obtain the approval and feedback of the colleagues
 - Final defense:
 - Commission made of:
 - 2 Professors / Associate Professors that are part of the same institution (one of them is the advisor)
 - 2 Professors / Associate Professors that are not part of the same institution
 - Head of the Department where the student did the PhD



PhD in Students' View (9)

- **Task 9: Evaluation of the thesis by the Ministry of Education:**
 - Different commissions for different fields of study composed of prominent figures from the field
 - Based on standards defined by the appropriate commission
 - If the thesis is accepted, it is included in an order of the ministry



Questions

Thank you very much!

