

HYV ÄT

Helsingin yliopiston väitöskirjatutkijat
Doktorander vid Helsingfors universitet
University of Helsinki PhD students

Results of the PhD survey at the University of Helsinki

March 13th 2018

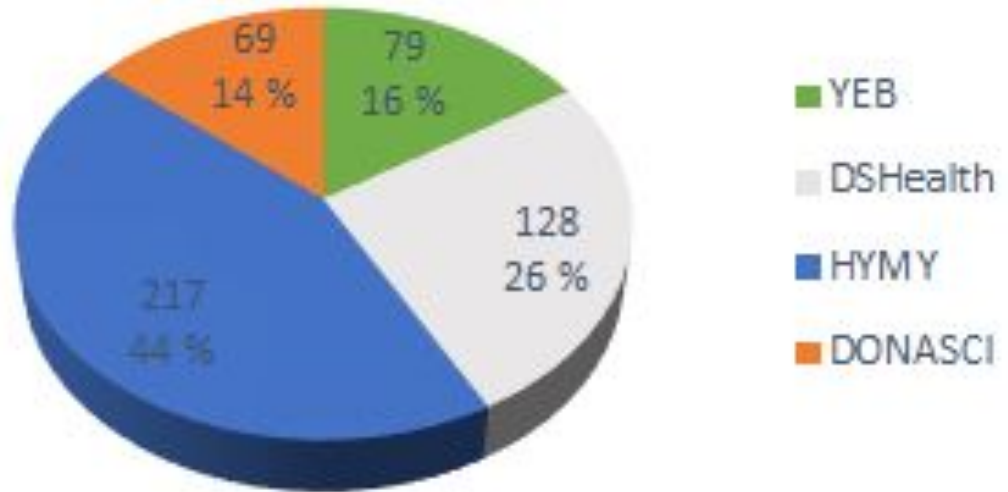
Scope of the survey

- All PhD students at the University of Helsinki
 - Also non-HYVÄT members
- To understand the most important tasks in PhD advocacy
 - Also to provide data as arguments
- To complement the [evaluation of the doctoral education](#)
- To compare with [results from 2015](#)

Results

- 508 respondents
 - ~12 % of all PhDs

Doctoral Schools

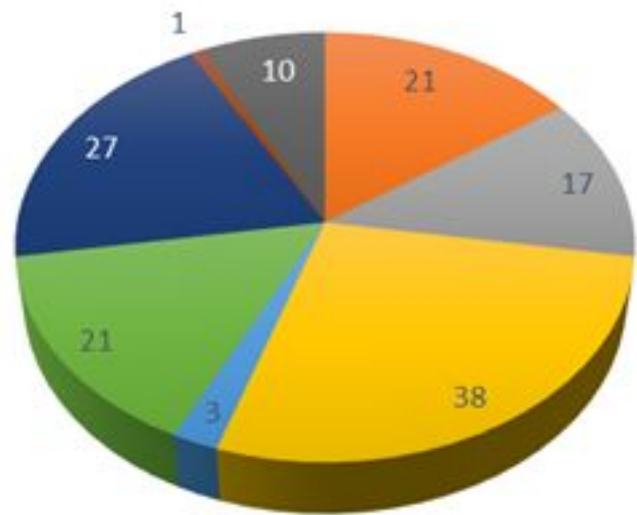


Environmental, Food and Biological Sciences, YEB



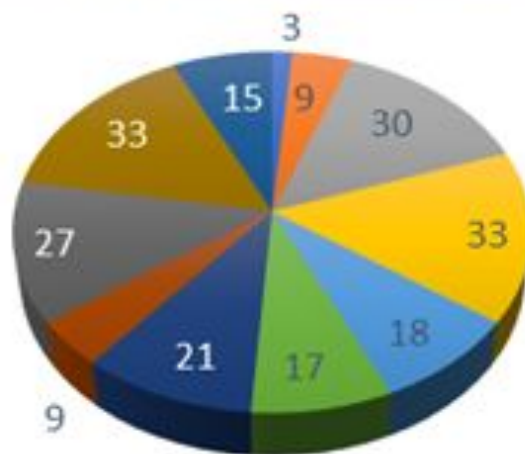
- Environmental, Food and Biological Sciences, YEB
- Food Chain and Health, FoodHealth
- Interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences, DENVI
- Microbiology and Biotechnology
- Plant Sciences, DPPS
- Sustainable Use of Renewable Natural Resources, AGFOREE
- Wildlife Biology, LUOVA

Health, DSHealth



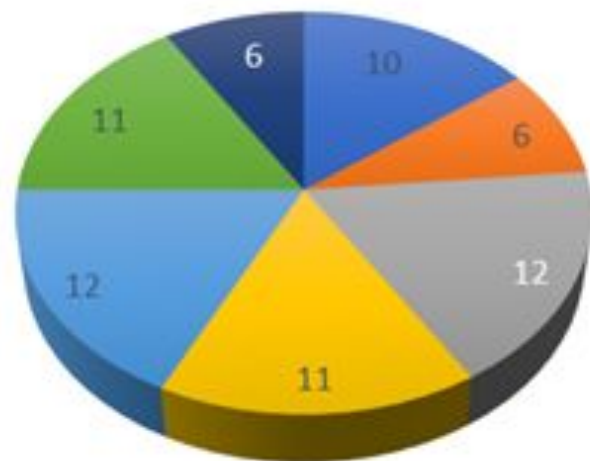
- Health, DSHealth
- Biomedicine, DPBM
- Brain & Mind, B&M
- Clinical Research
- Clinical Veterinary Medicine, DPCVM
- Drug Research, DPDR
- Integrative Life Science, ILS
- Oral Sciences, FINDOS
- Population Health, DocPop

Humanities and Social Sciences, HYMY



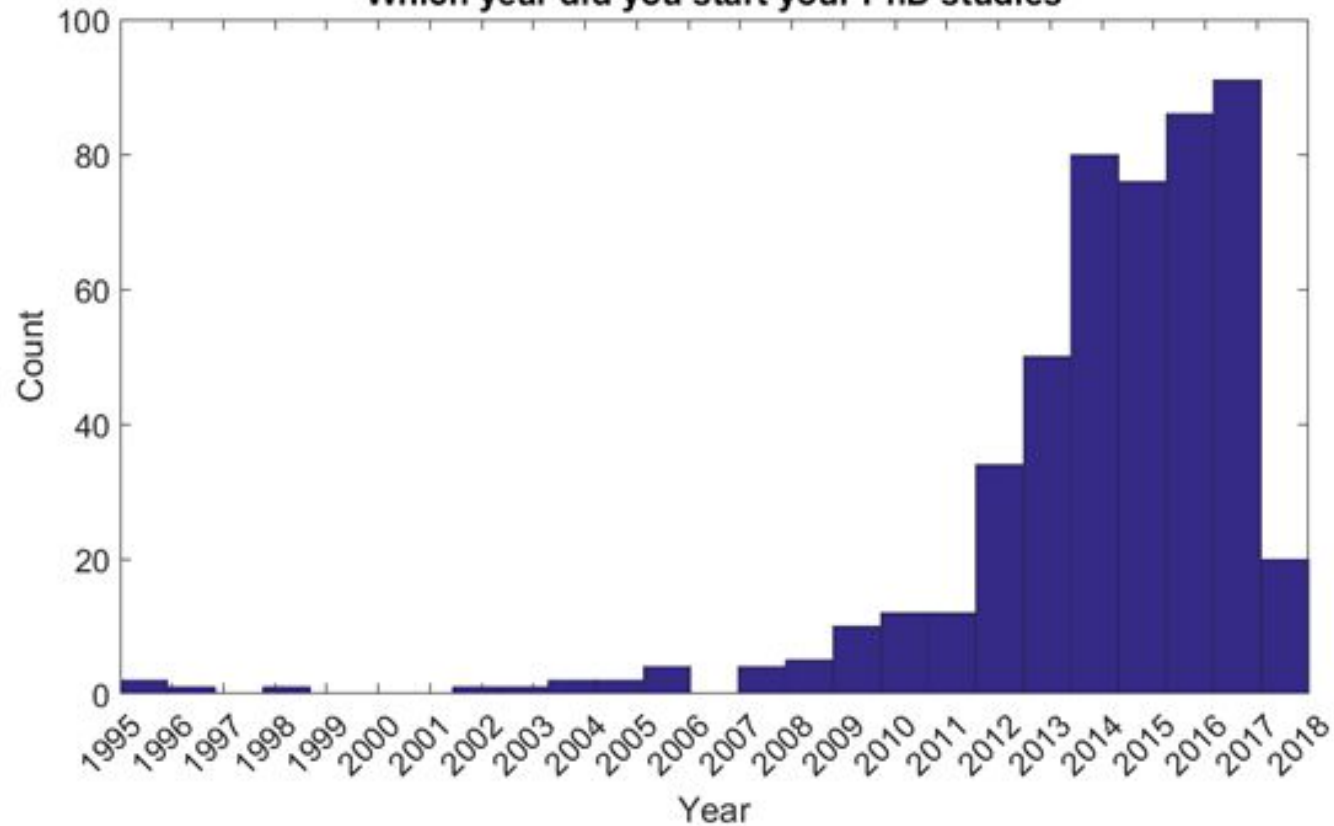
- Economics, DPE
- Gender, Culture, and Society, SKY
- History and Cultural Heritage
- Language Studies, HESLANG
- Law
- Philosophy, Arts and Society
- Political, Societal and Regional Change, PSRC
- Psychology, Learning and Communication, PsyCo
- School, Education, Society and Culture, SEDUCE
- Social Sciences
- Theology and Religious Studies

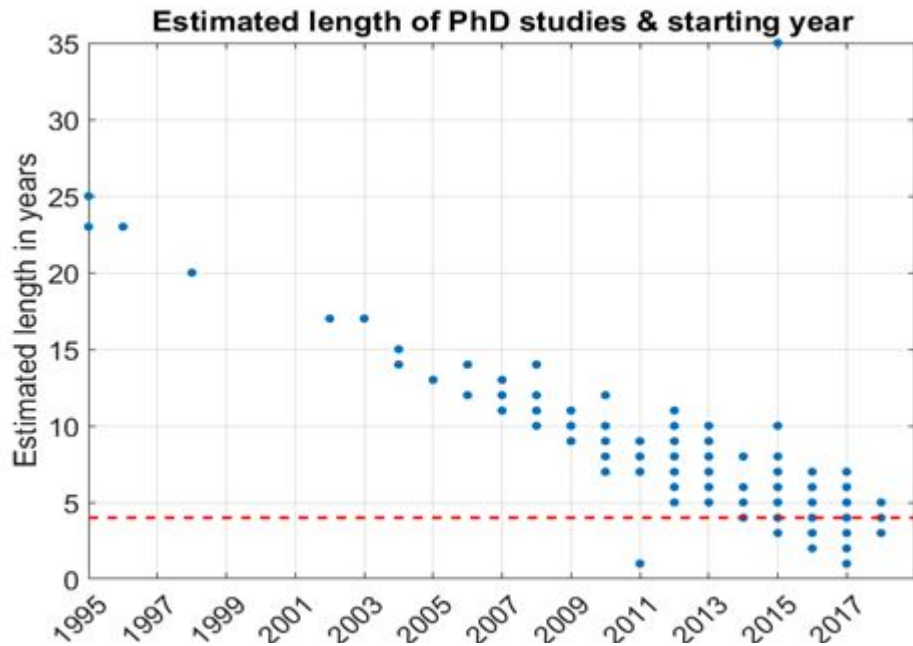
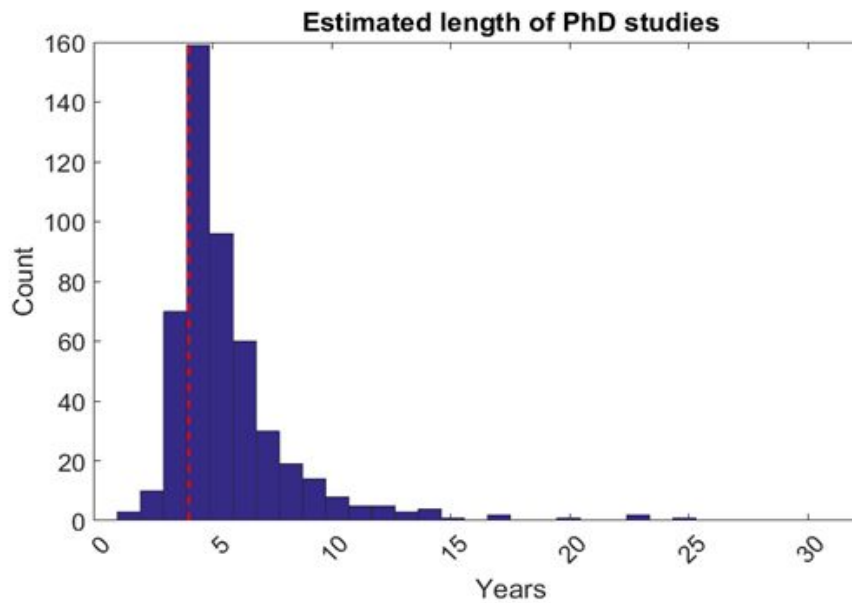
Natural Sciences, DONASCI



- Atmospheric Sciences, DP-ATM
- Chemistry and Molecular Sciences, CHEMS
- Computer Science, DoCS
- Geosciences, GeoDoc
- Materials Research and Nanosciences, MATRENA
- Mathematics and Statistics, DOMAST
- Particle Physics and Universe Sciences, PAPU

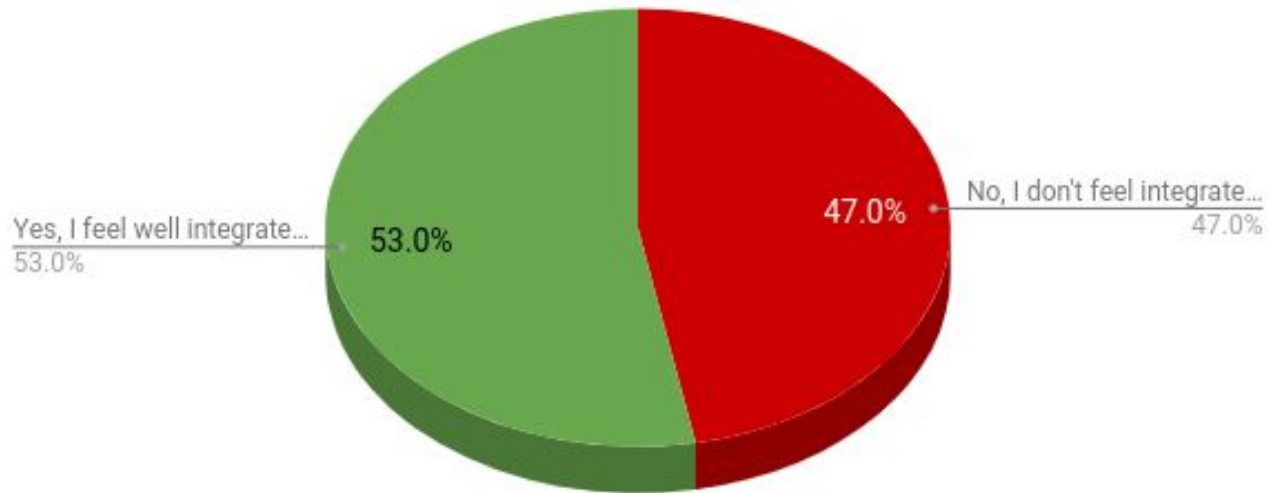
Which year did you start your PhD studies



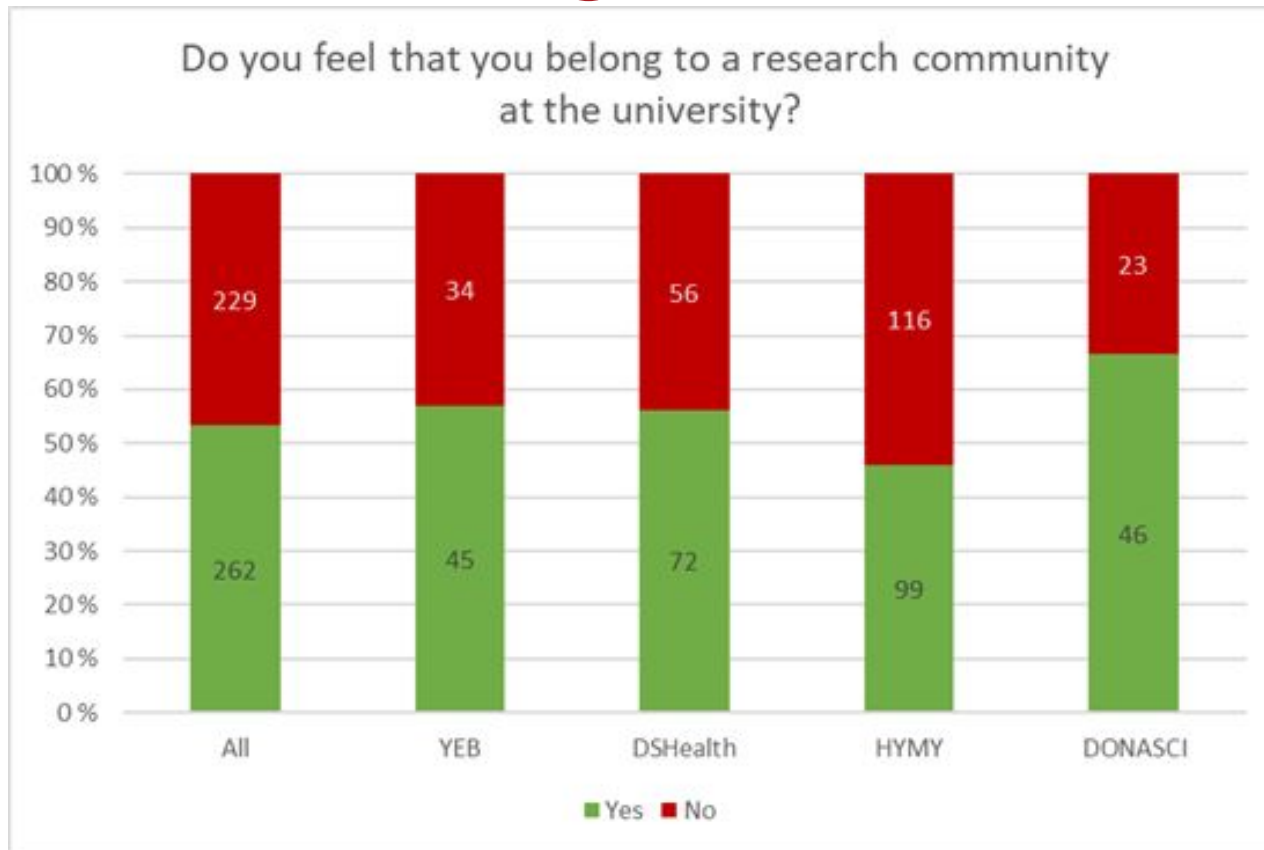


Key findings

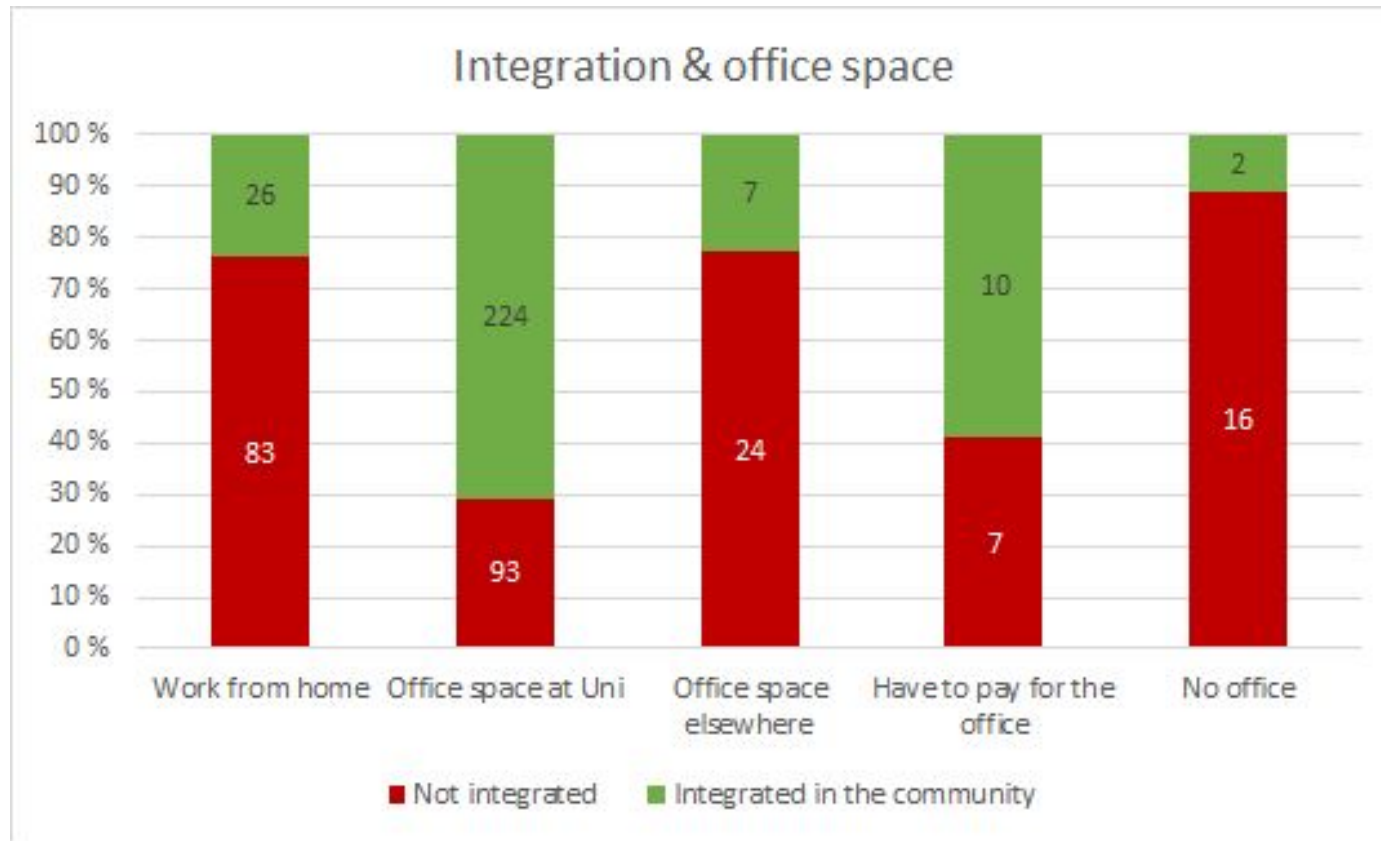
Do you feel that you belong to a research community at the university?



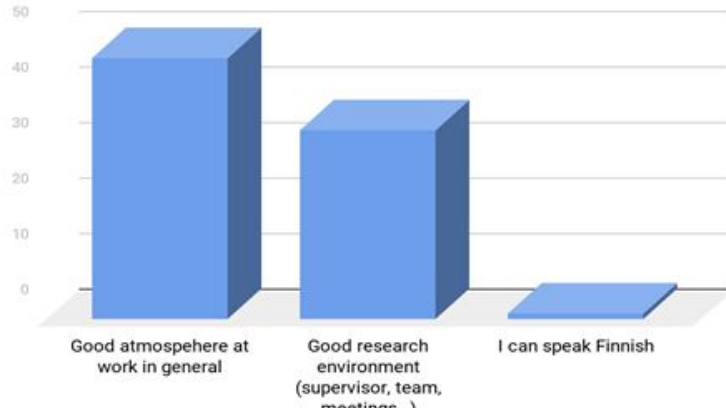
Integration



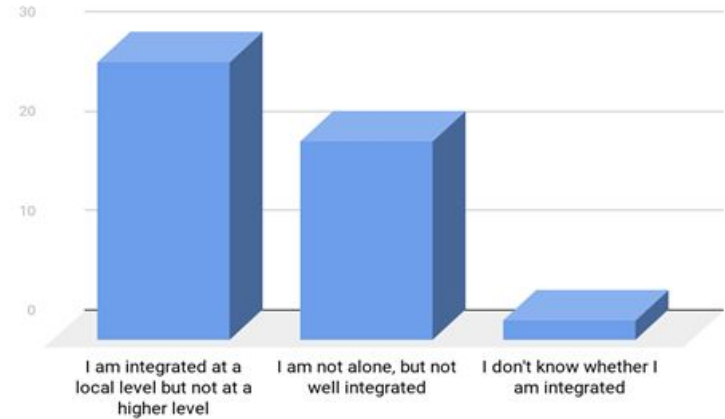
Integrity



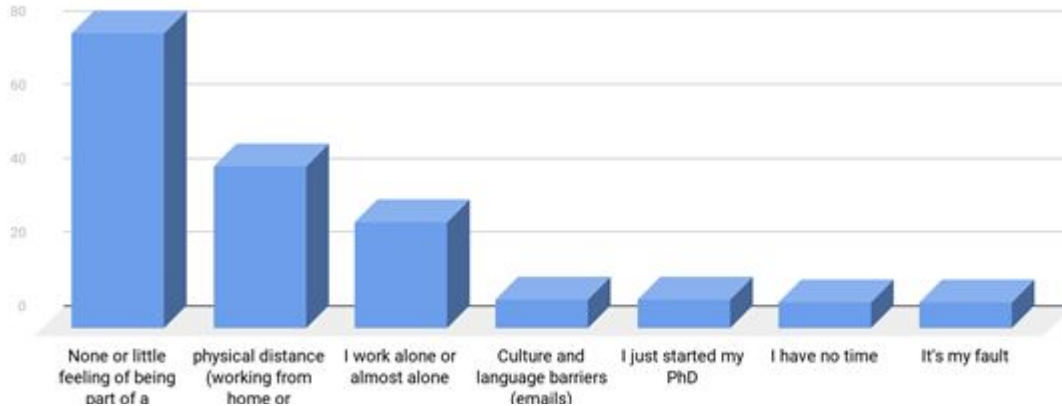
I do feel integrated because:



I feel so-so integrated because:



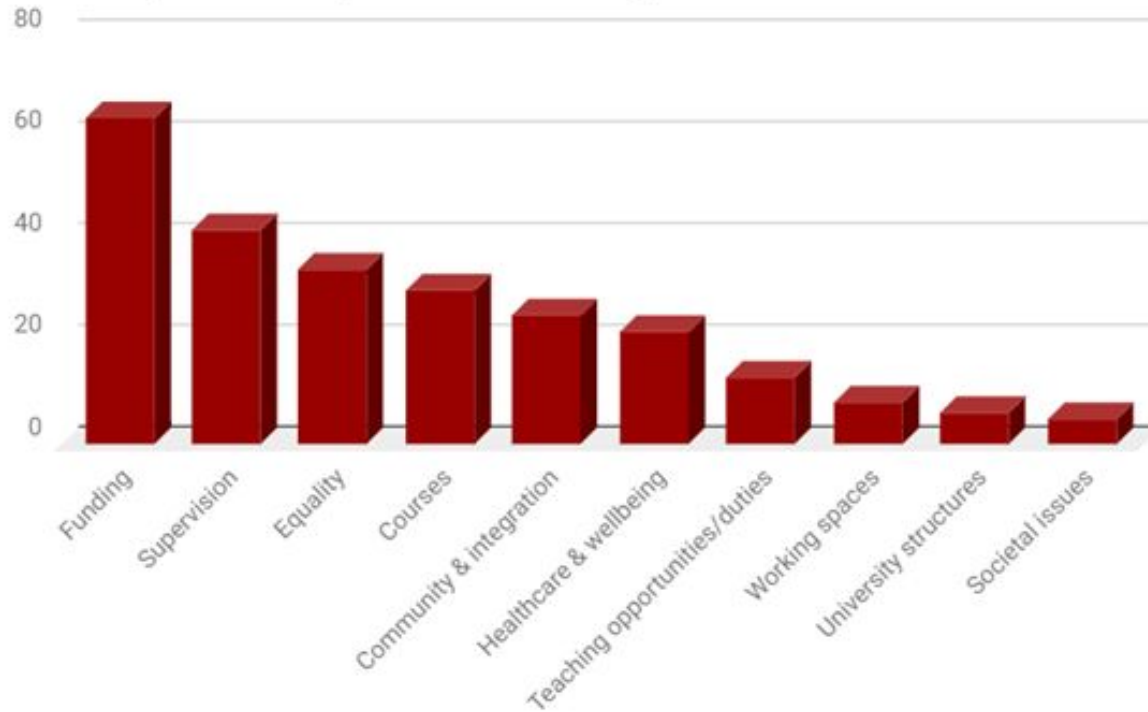
I do not feel integrated because:



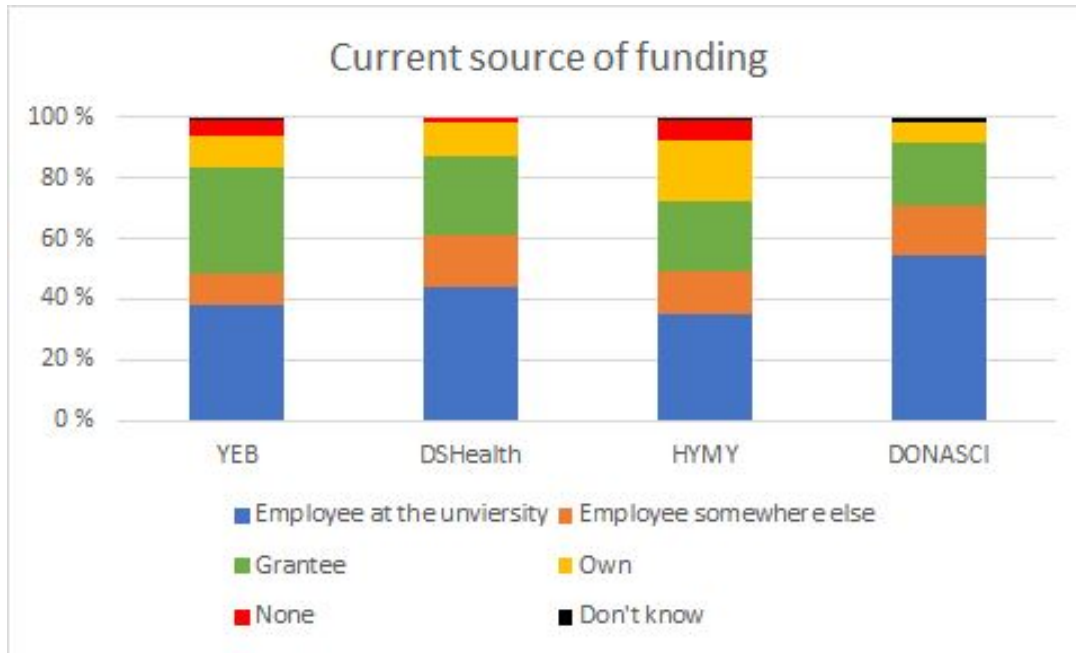
“Exactly how would one feel integrated when there are no courses, everything changes all the time and the University does not seem to care about the quality of research or teaching but of constant re-arranging of everything with no clear plan of anything?”

Key findings

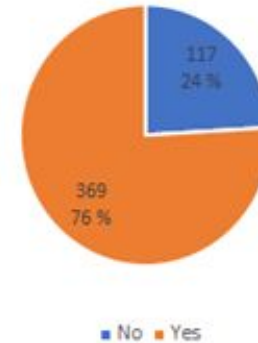
Most important topics for advocacy



Funding



Have you gotten help with funding applications from your supervisor or other senior academics?



Funding

“Increasing the salary!
PhD students are barely making ends meats. Also, having more consistent and reliable contracts.

So, a PhD student does not expend 30 percent of their time applying for different funds and applications and always being worried if they are going to have funding for the next year or not.”

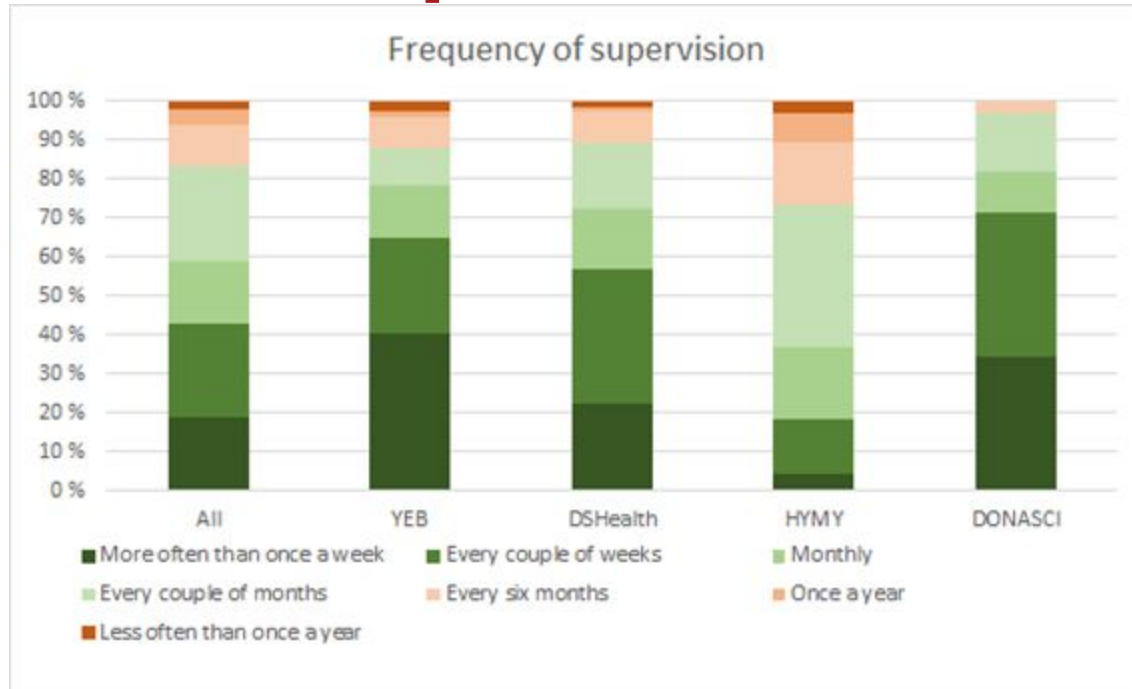
“Equal status between salaried PhD students and grantees

proper pay for TA:ing courses

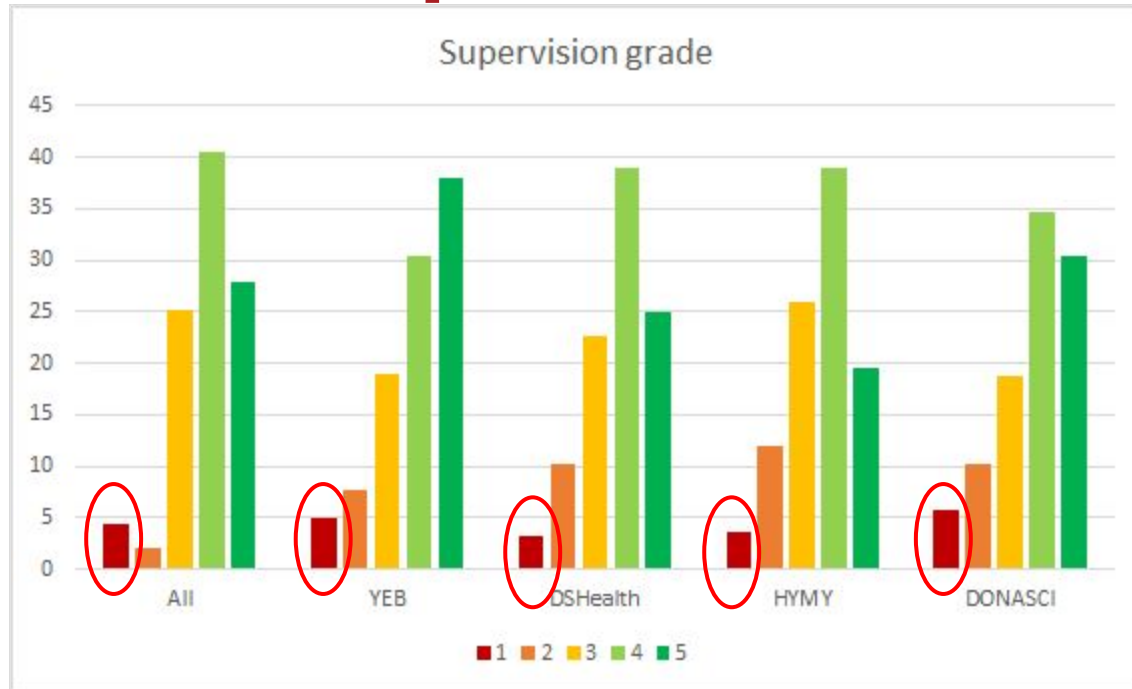
clearer guidelines on how salaried positions are decided on”

“The most important long-term topic is the situation of precarious PhD students on short grants or even no funding.”

Supervision



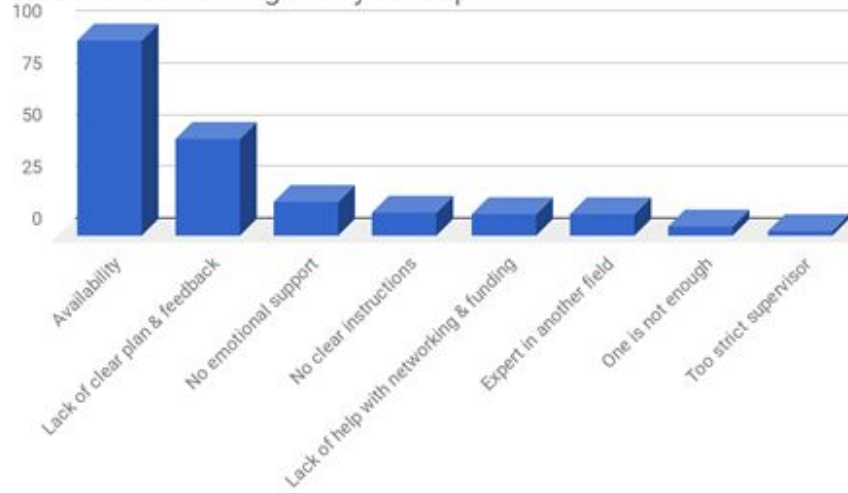
Supervision



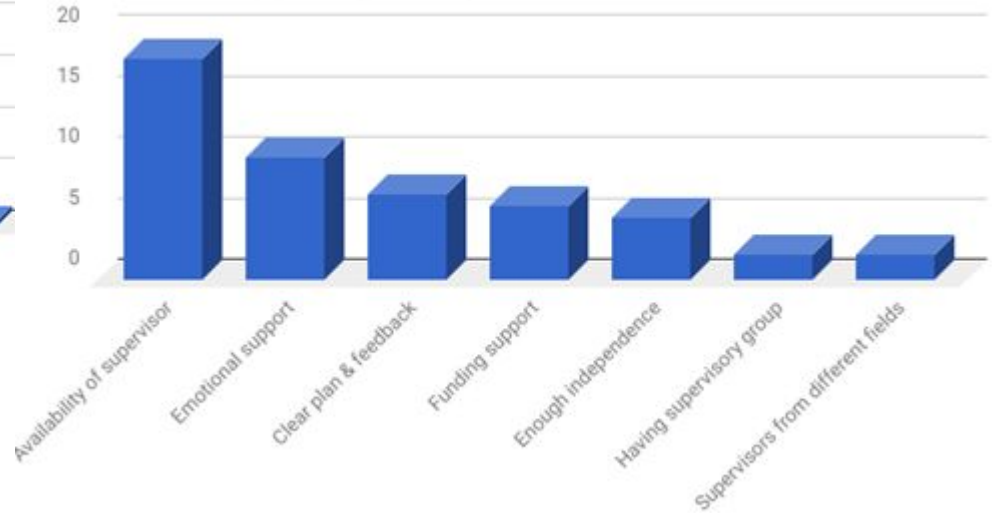
Average: 3.7/5

Supervision

What is not working with your supervision?

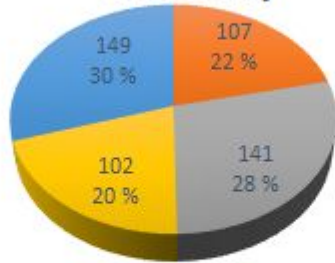


What is working with your supervision?



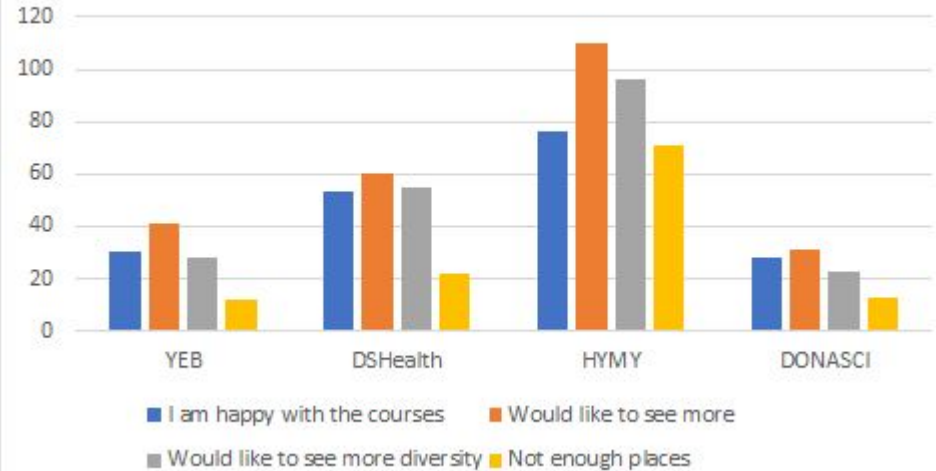
Teaching & courses

Do you have teaching duties at the university



- Teaching duties
- No and I am happy about it
- No, but I would like to teach
- Yes, I teach voluntarily
- Yes, my contract obliges me to teach

Course availability

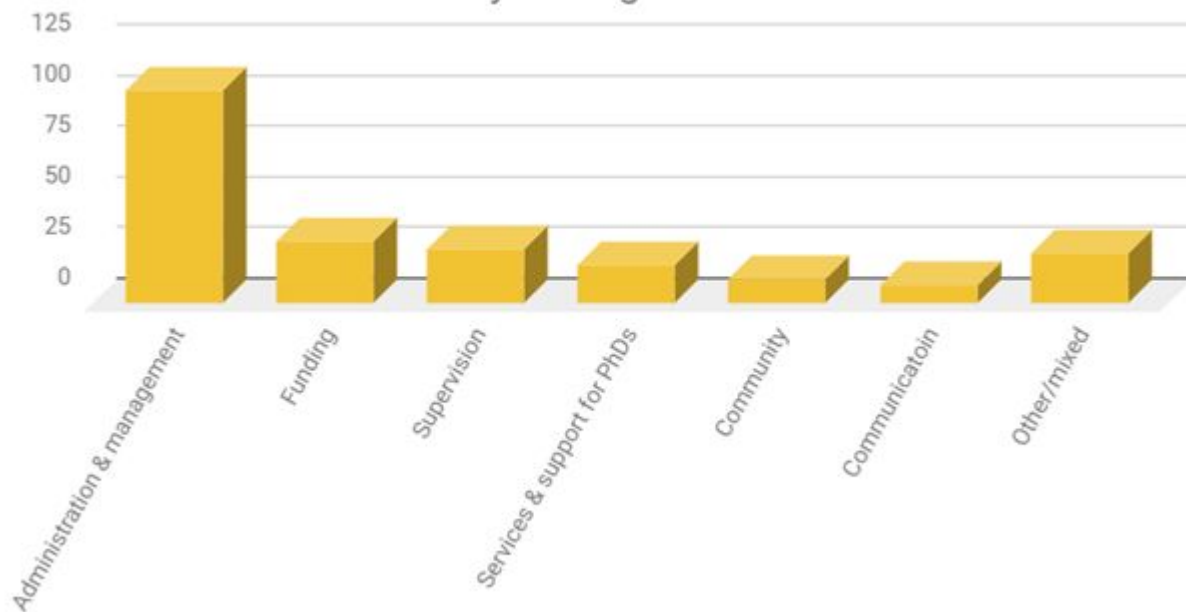


- More information on PhD courses
- More courses on transferable skills

- More flexibility & online courses
- Availability for all PhD Students and not just employees

Comments to the management

Comments to the university management



“Do you no longer consider education to be intrinsically valuable? Are not education and research the basis for Finland's healthy economy and standard of living?”

“Make PhD candidates feel worthy! UH should be proud of its PhD candidates, and PhD candidates should be proud of being affiliated to the UH. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.”

“It is really good to have supervisory groups for all the PhD students”

Comments to the representatives

Suggestions

- improving the equality between PhD students
- the need for more courses or a greater diversity in courses, workshops, and seminars
- clearer information about the language check services
- improving the community, opportunities to get to know the others in the school or programme
- chances to meet with the staff
- funding, and support for those who are applying for grants
- improving the university's bad websites
- improving orientation for new PhD students
- providing more career support
- making the thesis committee reports electronic

“Keep it up! I know it is challenging to improve the school all the time :)”

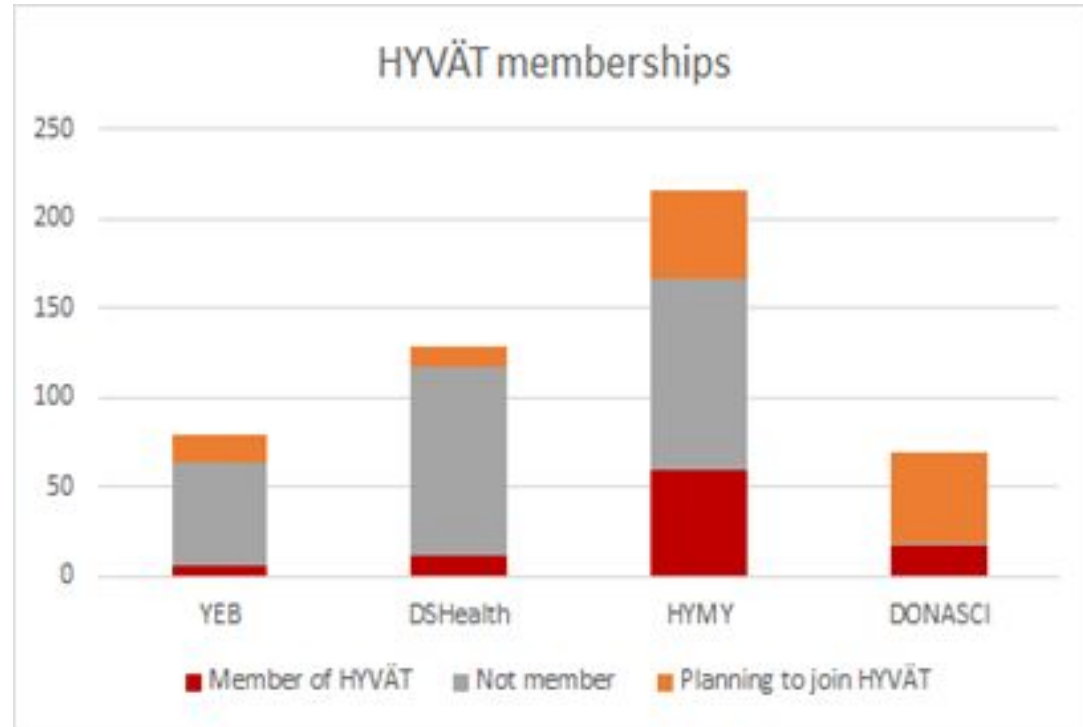
“Be bold, be idealistic. You have to: it is young people's strength against the materialistic cynicism (“realism”).”

“Who are they? Where can we meet? What do they do?”

Comments to HYVÄT

- Lack of information
- More courses on transferable skills
- Better information about PhD students' benefits
- Comments on language policy

“I wish there had been some initiatives like HYVÄT when I started my PhD studies. Better late than never :-)”



Immediate actions by HYVÄT

- Better information to all Doctoral Schools
- Better communication on the language issue
- This spring's focus on mental wellbeing
 - Statement on study psychologists
 - Wellbeing seminar in April/May

Other actions

- What do you think?
- Is there something more to analyze & compare?

Thanks!

- Let's continue the discussion in Dubliner
- The report will be published at HYVÄT's website & mailing lists in a couple of days:
<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/phd-association/>
<https://www.facebook.com/huphd/>
phd-board@helsinki.fi