



IUSS

Scuola Universitaria Superiore Pavia

**La valutazione della didattica
da parte degli allievi dei Corsi di Dottorato**

Allegato 2 al Rapporto 2017

**a cura di Ufficio Valutazione e Programmazione e Servizi
statistici e supporto organi di valutazione**

Commenti al questionario per rilevare le valutazioni dei dottorati del secondo e terzo anno

Please indicate clearly if you experienced some problems in your Research Activities.

- As usual, you often face duties that should not be carried out by PhD students, for example administrative issues
- During the first year, I mostly took courses, and I undertook actual research activities pertaining my work somewhat sparsely (I skipped a course in January and June to work on Individual Studies, state-of-the-art review, research planning). Concerning the research activities carried out within that period, I found it to be extremely embarrassing that IUSS does not have an allocated working space for its PhD students. Although I understand the lack of space to accommodate all of us, working in the library space of IUSS quickly gets unbearable (due to noise from classrooms, rooms can get quite full, discussion between peers is complicated since one does not want to disturb others). Thus, in my view, it is extremely important that IUSS tries to find a way to allocate office space to its PhD students, even if shared offices between 3/4 people (and no, having an office at EUCentre is not reasonable, it is in the middle of nowhere). Furthermore, this question actually raises another important issue related to the amount of credits required to be carried out within the PhD programme. Asking a researcher like myself to conduct their activities within a 36 month period, and requiring that same candidate to have 90 credits concluded at the end is, plainly put, inadmissible. As much as I like to learn new things, and recognizing that the course structure offered by IUSS is exceptional, 90 ECTS roughly equates to a 18-month period of work, which is HALF (!!!) the total time I have to carry out my research. If this number was lower, the quality of the final piece of research I produce will certainly increase.
- NO OFFICE, no desk, no access to publications, no internal communication, no information on things that matter (credits, deadlines, templates), no willingness to ameliorate conditions
- Sometimes, but very rarely, IUSS does not provide access to some databases or some papers have to be paid for in order to download them. It's very rare, but sometimes happens.
- The main problem in my research activities is to feel myself alone in the work, this is NOT due to lack of support from my supervisor but due to the fact that most of my research is done by home and the opportunity to exchange opinions, skills and questions between PhDs are very rarely. I think that these possibilities are very rare due to the lack of a designed place for PhD where develop their research. Other important reason is the lack of information and communication between the different disciplines within the IUSS.
- There is no office, thus most of the researchers work at home. This caused an almost total lack of communication and exchange about our researches
- There is no access to scientific publications at IUSS
- Lack of seminar
- Absolute lack of organization, no information, bureaucracy, no space to work, etc
- No clear strategic plan of the overall research activity during the PhD (everything is left to students personal initiative which can be dangerous)
- I experienced some difficulties at the beginning as the research fields in IUSS are far from my original academic background (economics and governance)
- In general I did not experience any problems. Sometimes orders of material and reagents are difficult or slow.

Please indicate clearly if you experienced some problems in the Research Environment.

- no office, there is NO RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

- I am pursuing my research alone with my supervisor. No courses, no interaction, within the IUSS and outside.
- The main problem here is the clear lack of an "office environment" for PhD students.
- As mentioned above, the lack of a designed place for PhD is the major problem in my research environment. Other important reason is the lack of information and communication between the different disciplines within the IUSS. Another important aspect is the limited access in finding the scientific journal using the IUSS access.
- PhD students do not have an office. They are supposed to stay in the PhD room or in the library at IUSS.
- strictly speaking of rooms and facilities, IUSS is not a good location where to place your workstation. Library and Ph.D. room are often overcrowded, they haven't a good internet connections, and in IUSS there isn't an useful library for my research. For this reasons, I decided to return in my hometown and came at IUSS only when it is necessary.
- What research environment?
- There are no courses provided
- Absence of a real research group which would enable support, cooperation and developed of shared project (i.e. papers) among students.
- there is very little sharing and collaboration between different phd students and disciplines. I am lucky that I can carry out my research with the support of another organization (EUCENTRE) as iuss does not provide a proper working space for its students.

Please indicate clearly if you experienced some problems in the coursework (please indicate the related courses)

- Too many course
- schedule always sent late, like a day before beginning of the course, courses in English, but often professors did not speak English well enough
- Total lack of academic offer related to the REM program
- My only wish is to learn when I am going into courses. Since (1) the courses thought here are quite compact considering their content and (2) they are methodological and based on a lot of assignments and project work, there is absolutely no time or reason to prepare for a 50-PERCENT WEIGHTED written exam. This COMPLETELY defeats the purpose of learning when I find myself in a position that I only care about passing this meaningless test to be able to get at least B+ so I can earn my credits. I'm stressing this because I've always did great and had been one of the best in classes in terms of doing neat and accurate work and overall with the strongest grasp in the subject. But when it comes to an exam (usually ones with a lot of hand calculations in a short span of time), all bets are off. Half the class gets better grades than I do. If this random guy who is NOT going anywhere (sorry but this is reality) gets better grades just because he prioritized studying specifically for the exam while copying other's assignment/project work (which happens EVERY course because people work together all the time even for individual assignments), then there is something significantly flawed.
- Some problems in organization of the course schedule, most of the time they were shared with the students very late. Some professors have shown high skills in their subject and excellent teaching skills. Unfortunately, there have also been some professors who were not up to the expected standards for a master course: technically update, ineffective lesson structure, limited ability to listen to and interact with students, and some not consistent with the subjects proposed.
- Maybe, some cross-courses weren't useful for my research or, at least, not enough to justify its duration (i.e. Statistics).
- no courses provided

- Very few non earthquake engineering related courses offered and in some cases they were not adequately structured and set at the right level for all the class
- I would like to indicate something had the courses been provided by iuss. Unfortunately my experience is only related to the courses provided in the master as there have been no courses since the start of my phd - to be precise only course of environmental risk which are very far from my interest and in my opinion not consistent with the topic of 'Understanding and Managing Extremes'

Please indicate clearly if you experienced some problems about the organization

- there are no written rules, no one is responsible and nobody cares, there is no organisation within this school
- The main problem is the lack of clarity and stability of the procedures during the years, in particular for the credit recognition (courses and individual study). Another important aspect is related to the modality regarding how to submit the PhD thesis.
- Information about courses and courses dates and hours are often provided too late (about one week before the first lesson). Information about changes in the regulations are not officially provided to the students.
- It is still unclear whether I have to obtain some credits for my PhD from courses or I can replace them with an individual study. The board has not provided a clear answer to that.
- Number of credits required is still unknown with certainty.
- Absolute lack of organization, no information (or wrong information), bureaucracy, unresponsiveness of secretariat, no space to work, etc
- 1-There are no courses provided this year till the moment, similarly, last year only very short courses were provided.
2-the new regulation which requires to achieve 30 ECTS only from courses within the PhD, did not take into consideration that some students took the master in iuss. Since the school is not offering newer courses than the courses offered in the master. Thus, very limited progress is done in regards of credit hours from courses. Also, individual studies will not be accounted according to the new regulation, this issue brings concern especially for the second year students
3- the issue mentioned in points (1&2) were raised many times to concerned parties, however, no progress is done yet since 1 year almost. Unfortunately, the organization is not clear, and the care dedicated to the REM PhD program is below expectations
4- Procedures and regulations in regard to the use of 10% of the annual scholarship for research expenses are not clear
- Lack of information on credits recognition
- there is very little clarity about the regulations of concerning the phd program. We have asked several times to provide us with a detailed and official guideline. Above all I would like to express my concern regarding the credits that we should obtain during our phd: from my understanding phd students that have attended the REM master are supposed to obtain 30 credits from courses only, however there are no courses organized by iuss.
- In general I did not experienced any problem. I think the guidelines about the timing of the PhD thesis and the final PhD title might represent a problem for possible postdoc applications if not clearly defined.

General comments and suggestions

- If you want to have a PhD programme, give the PhD students a good research environment, like offices, access to publications, and more information. You cannot have a programme without any

regolamento. For the future: please send this survey to an English speaker before. It is full of errors and I did not understand all of the questions.

- I am doing almost everything by myself
- The only reason I am here is because this place is arguably the best in term of its sheer scientific strength in Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology department. Other than this fact, this place has one of THE least convenient structures I've ever seen.
- In general my PhD experience will be better if:
 - I could spent most of my research time at IUSS in a dedicated space for PhDs, where share the work with other PhD students (not only from my area of study);
 - there will be clearer procedure reagarding the recognition of my activities: courses, seminar, individual study, and the thesis submission; this will help the to plan of my work.
- From my experience everything so far has been good, I am kind of delay with respect to my original schedule, but mostly because I have had to go back to study by myself some basic theory (in different fields) I did not have/do not have a strong background on, but that nevertheless, are absolutely fundamental for further activities in my research plan. Since this is entirely my fault, I cannot complaint about it.
- Access to online scientific publications from IUSS is very important for the research activity. A schedule of courses (at least title of the courses) should be provided to PhD students at the beginning of the academic year.
- The rules around the PhD are still unclear to many students. They have to be clarified and be communicated in a better fashion.
- more clarifications on the course of study
- I have had a productive and good year till now at IUSS/EUCENTRE. Nothing specific to make.
- Lack of courses and coherence between them. There are some courses on the understanding but very little on the managing. We will need more clarity about the rules and procedures and the alternatives for reaching the required credits, also more transparency should be given to the validation and accreditation of courses taken out of the IUSS.
- Foreing students are hired but NO help or additional information is given to them.
- 1) I do not understand half of the questions in this survey. The English is extremely poor, and the sections are a mess. Many things are repeated as well.
2) Who/What are "PhD courses representative", "PhD board", "PhD Student Office"? Never heard of them, maybe you should let us know.
- I find the increase of the duration of the PhD programme from three to four years positive. Three year are usually inadequate to produce results on a research project
- I do believe that the UME PhD programme has a great potential, as the REM master programme whose uniqueness made it an added value for the school, before it was canceled. In my opinion there should simple be a greater attention to students which need to be guided at all levels, not only from the academic point of view.
- My experience at iuss will help me fulfill my aspirations because of the courses I attented in the master program and because of the help and support of both my supervisor and the organization i am collabiration with (EUCENTRE), however the organization of the phd is very poor and not up to the level of a phd program.
- My overall experience with IUSS PhD has been positive.