

## Risk Inventory

This version is from January 14, 2022<sup>1</sup>

This list of statements has been developed to indicate what is a normal situation in most PhD projects, and whether there are situations in your project that deviate from the norm. Every project and PhD candidate is unique, and it may be that not all statements apply to you and your project (you can tick the NA column: not applicable). However, some of these situations should never occur (e.g. an uninvolved supervisor; item 17). Other situations are acceptable at the beginning of the project, but certainly no longer at the intended end of the project (e.g. item 5, "I haven't decided yet when the collection of new data, cases, information will stop"). Some situations may occur occasionally, but not too often (e.g., item, 9, "Sometimes, I feel depressed by the stress caused by my PhD trajectory"). The list is not exhaustive; for example, the private situation (e.g., health, obligations outside the PhD project for work or family) is not considered. It is up to you to identify the relevant risks.

If a particular situation described is applicable to the doctoral program ("yes"), it is desirable to consider whether it poses a risk (red column: high risk; yellow column: it could be a risk; green column: most likely no risk), and if so, exactly what the risk is and what can be done to reduce the risk. This is a good point to discuss with supervisors, with fellow PhD students, and/or with the Graduate School.

Completion of the list is optional, and the completed list need not be shared with others (including the Graduate School).

#	Theme	Yes	No	Risk	NA	Comment
1	I have a research topic but no research questions.					
2	For me it was a huge disappointment when my supervisor told me that my dissertation will be acceptable, sufficient – but not more than that.					
3	Chapters I have finished have not yet been marked by my supervisor as “done, no more work to do”.					
4	Up to now, I don't have a draft table of contents, mentioning chapters and chapter paragraphs.					
5	I haven't decided yet when the collection of new data, cases, information will stop, in order to concentrate completely on the analysis of my research material and writing up of the results.					
6	Up to now, I haven't a title and subtitle of my dissertation.					
7	My dissertation will contain more than 250 pages in total.					

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from an inventory developed by Faculty of Law, Tilburg University

#	Theme	Yes	No	Risk	NA	Comment
8	My supervisors are not on alert as regards the dangers connected to leaving my PhD trajectory (scholarship, appointment) without a full manuscript of the dissertation that can be submitted to the committee.					
9	Sometimes, I feel depressed by the stress caused by my PhD trajectory.					
10	Next to my dissertation work, there is a considerable workload caused by other activities.					
11	My supervisors are the only persons with whom I discuss my work in progress.					
12	I am worried. I am almost sure my dissertation can't be finished in the time still available.					
13	The writing of my dissertation is not guided by tentative answers to my research questions, or an argument I want to make and defend.					
14	When giving feedback, my supervisors are not writing down their comments.					
15	I want my work to be 100% perfect before sending it to my supervisors.					
16	I don't see any of supervisors at least every three to four weeks.					
17	One or more supervisors does not read my work or does not read it very well.					
18	I foresee that my research project is too ambitious and needs to be adjusted.					
19	... but I don't want that!					
20	A lack of proficiency in English is hindering my work considerably.					
21	My supervisors are inconsistent in their comments: one time they are telling me 'A'. The next time it can be 'B'. That makes me very uncertain.					
22	My supervisors continue and continue to give suggestions and advices.					
23	The comments and suggestions of the various supervisors are not consistent.					
24	At this moment, my dissertation contains chapters I am not sure of whether they should be included.					
25	I don't have clear ideas of the evaluation criteria used when my dissertation will be evaluated.					
26	If I have a problem with part of my dissertation, it's difficult to discuss it with my supervisors. The comments are not helpful enough, and I feel it is my duty to find the solution on my own.					

#	Theme	Yes	No	Risk	NA	Comment
27	If I have a problem with a section of my dissertation, I will postpone the tackling of it by, for example, starting with easy things.					
28	When I write a new chapter, I start with a title and an overview of the sections of the chapter ...					
29	... but I will not specify bullet wise the paragraphs of the section and the questions I want to answer in those paragraphs.					
Total						