

## **Potential PhD Student Questionnaire *from PhD Voice***

As a supervisor, you get quite a few people looking to do PhDs with you. However, just because some expresses interest in doing a PhD with you doesn't mean that they should or even that you should agree to be their supervisor.

The following questions are to help you determine whether you should agree to supervise a prospective PhD student or not.

The better you can assess which people are better suited for you to supervise, the better their PhD projects will become. If you wait until they've already become PhD students with you, then you may find that doing a PhD (and doing it with you) is not really a good idea for some of them and that will lead to a much harder 4 or 5 years for both you and the student. For example, some people want to do a PhD but don't really know what a PhD is. All they know is that it is a very prestigious degree. While wanting to do a PhD is great, if you don't know what you're getting into, then you have a much higher chance of becoming dissatisfied with it, which makes completing it much harder.

### *How to use the questionnaire*

When meeting with a potential PhD student, ask them these questions. It will give you a much better idea as to whether they would be a good fit for you or not. From there, you can make a better decision as to whether you should agree to supervise them or not.

Based on their answers, you can also explain anything to them that they may not know and help them also understand whether doing a PhD is really something they want to do.

### Potential PhD Student Questionnaire

#### Question 1)

Why do you want to do a PhD?

#### Question 2)

Do you have an idea about the topic you want to do your PhD in? If so, why do you want to investigate that?

#### Question 3)

What do you already know about the field you want to do your PhD in?

#### Question 4)

Tell me what you know about the PhD process – what it involves, the timeframe, the process, etc.

#### Question 5)

In terms of work ethic, how are you planning to approach your PhD?



Question 6)

What do you think you will gain, both career-wise and personal-growth-wise, out of your PhD?

Question 7)

In my research group, we work together as a team, which means that we help someone whenever they need help. For example, today, perhaps someone may need help and you help them. Then, tomorrow, you may need help and you'll get it from one of the research group members. That way, we all benefit. Are you happy to fulfill this requirement as well?

Question 8)

Do you know anyone who has done a PhD? If so, what did they say about it?

PHD Voice

