

PhD Supervisor Survey 2018

PhD programme
Faculty of Medicine
University of Oslo

About the survey

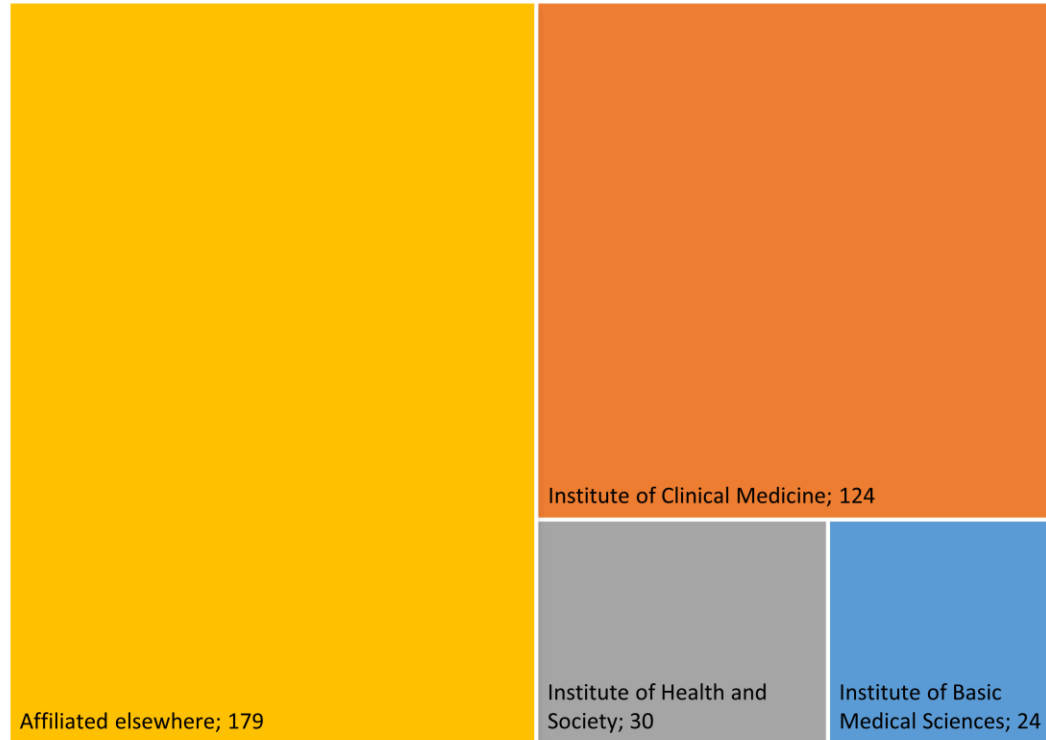
- The survey was administered by email to supervisors with candidates who defended their thesis between 2015-2017
- 914 supervisors had a valid email address
- 362 completed the survey
- Response rate: 40 %
- 89 % of respondents are active supervisors
 - Currently supervise PhD candidates as principal and/or as co-supervisor

1
DESCRIPTIVE
RESULTS

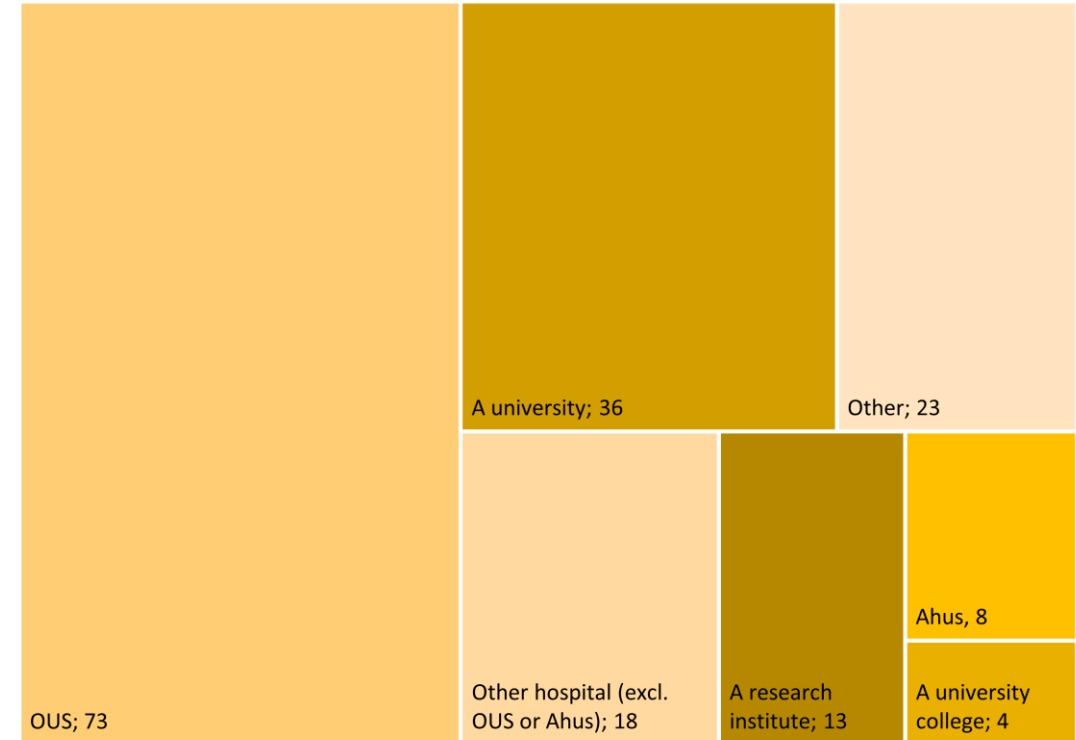
2
ANALYSIS

Supervisor affiliation

Around half of the supervisors are affiliated with one of the faculty's institutes (n=362)

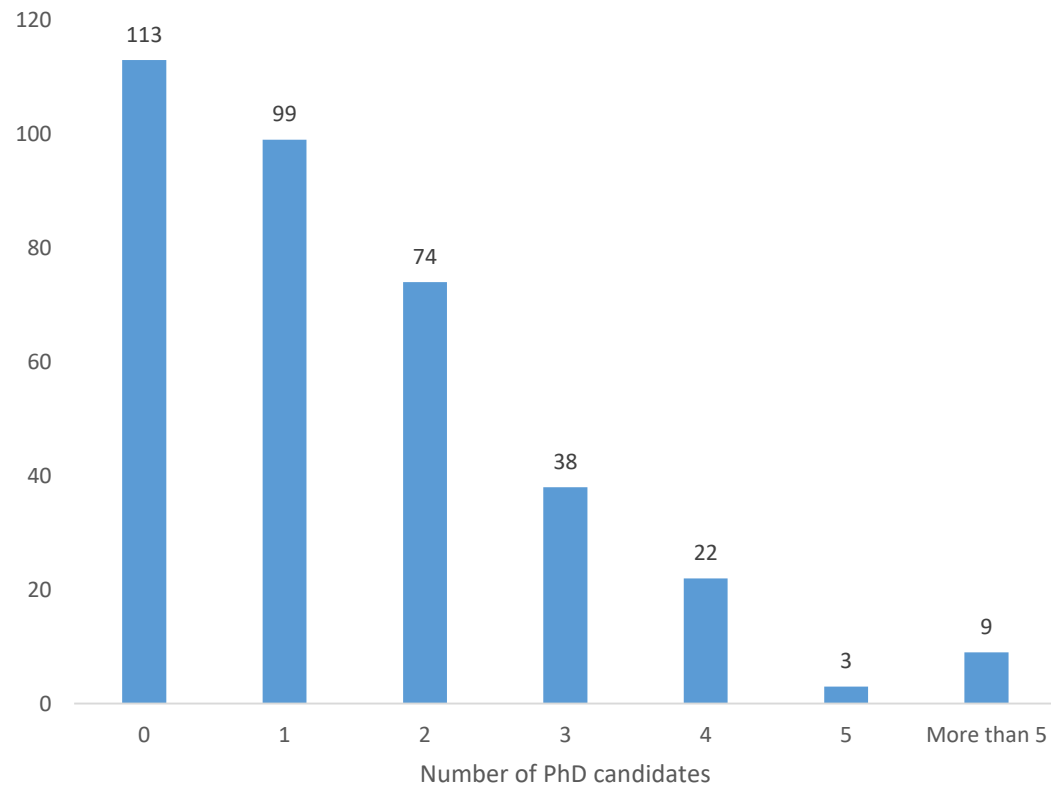


The external supervisors are affiliated with a range of different institutions (n=179)

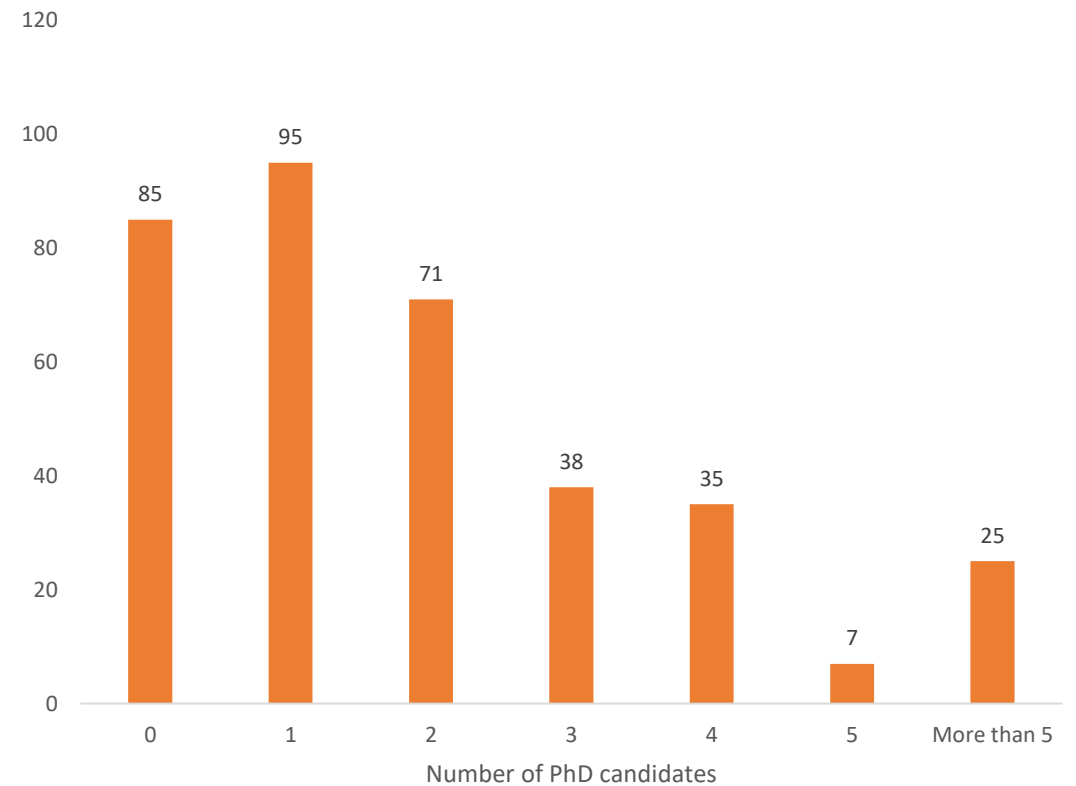


How many PhD candidates do you currently supervise...

...as principal supervisor?

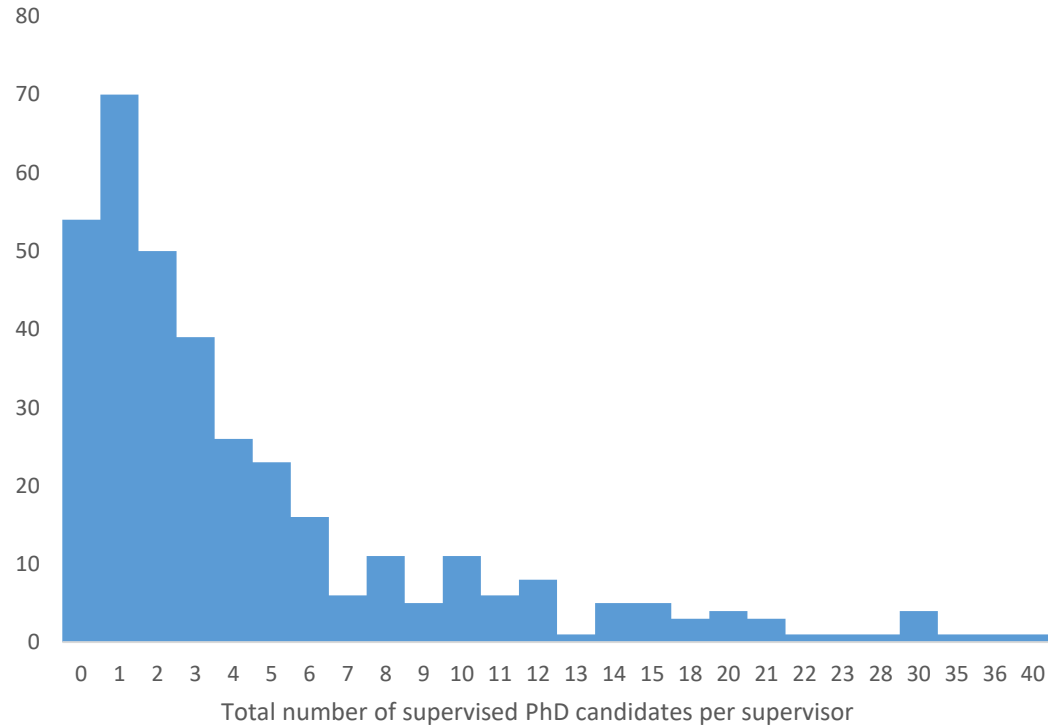


...as co-supervisor?

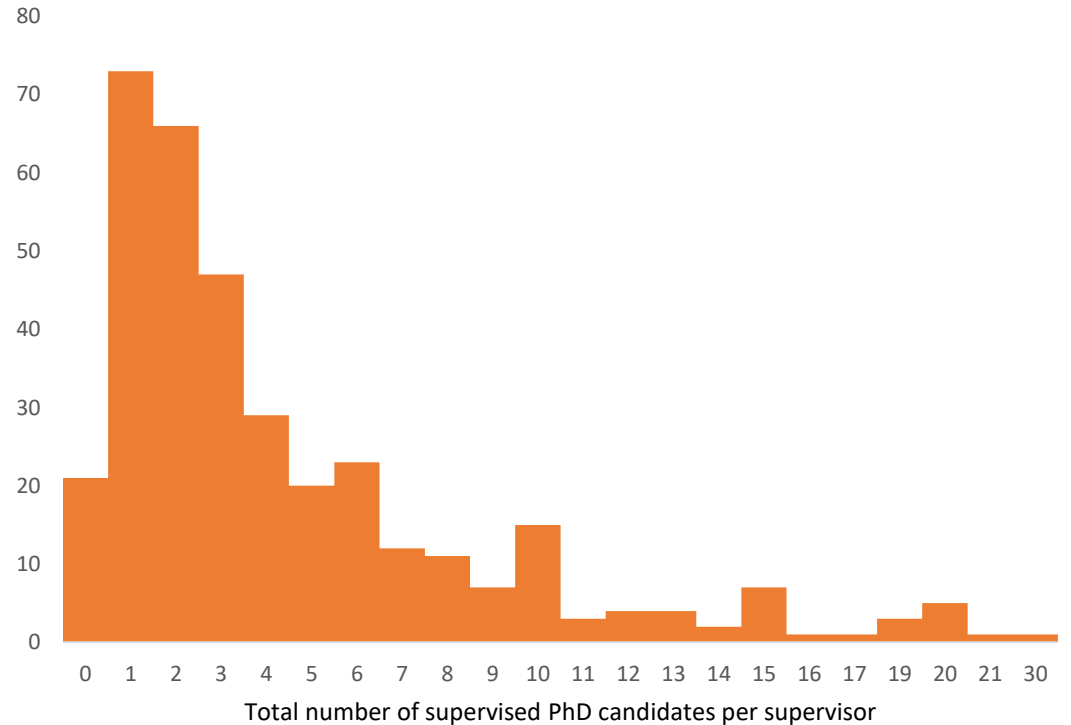


On average, supervisors have supervised...

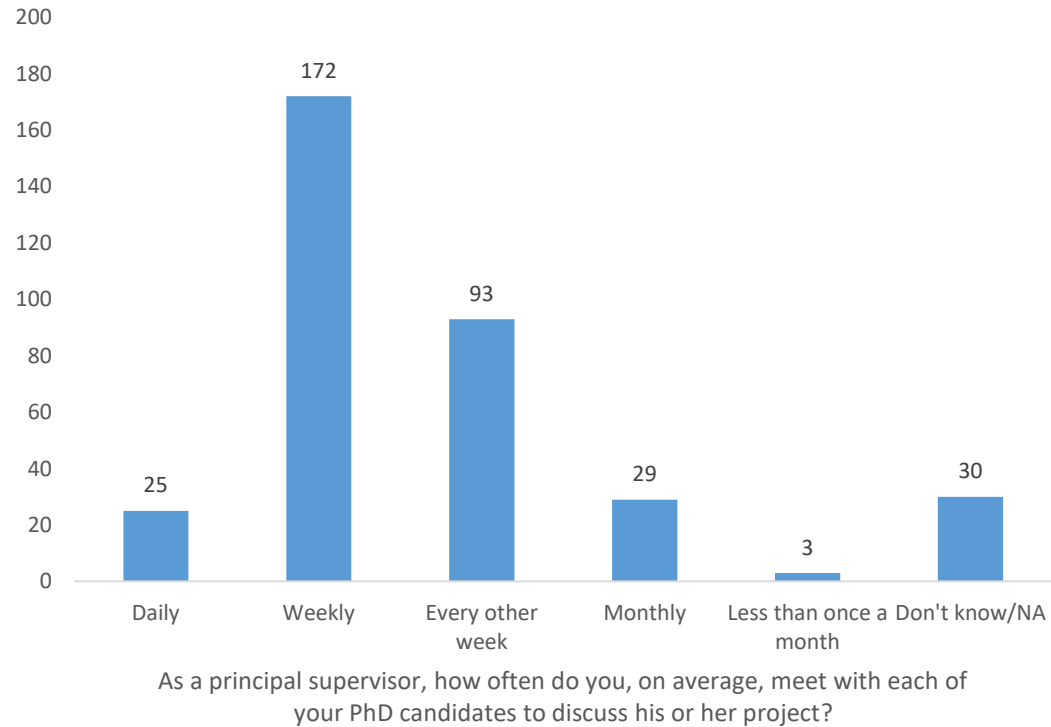
... around 5 candidates as principal supervisor



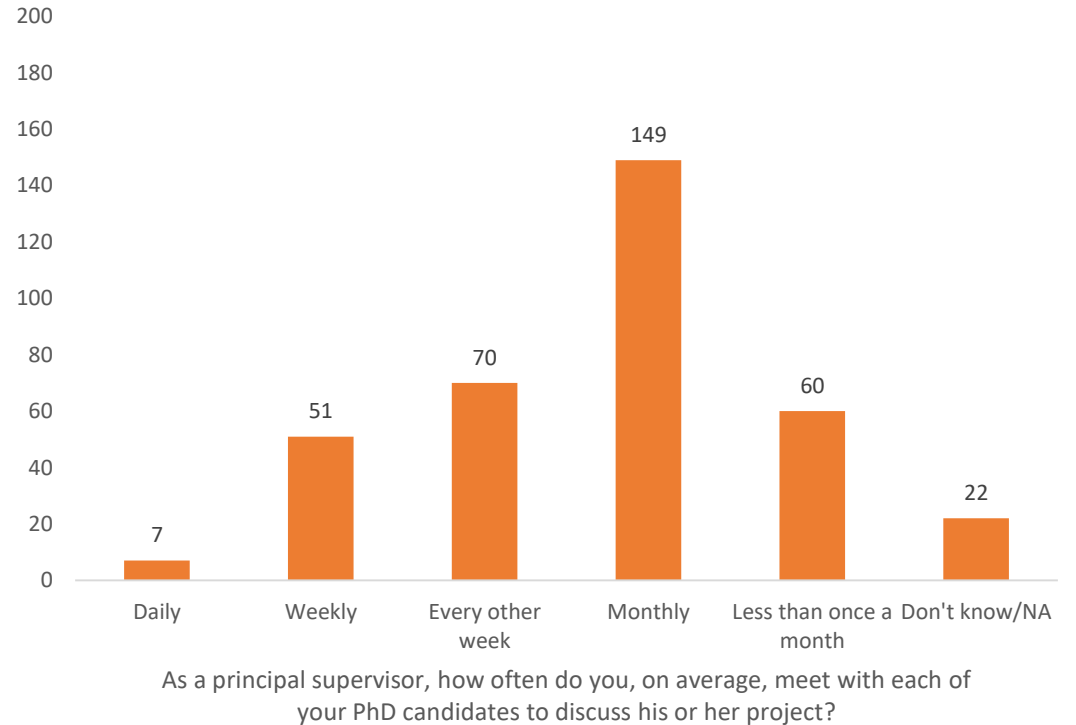
...4.5 candidates as co-supervisor



Most supervisors meet with their candidates weekly or every other week as a principal supervisor...

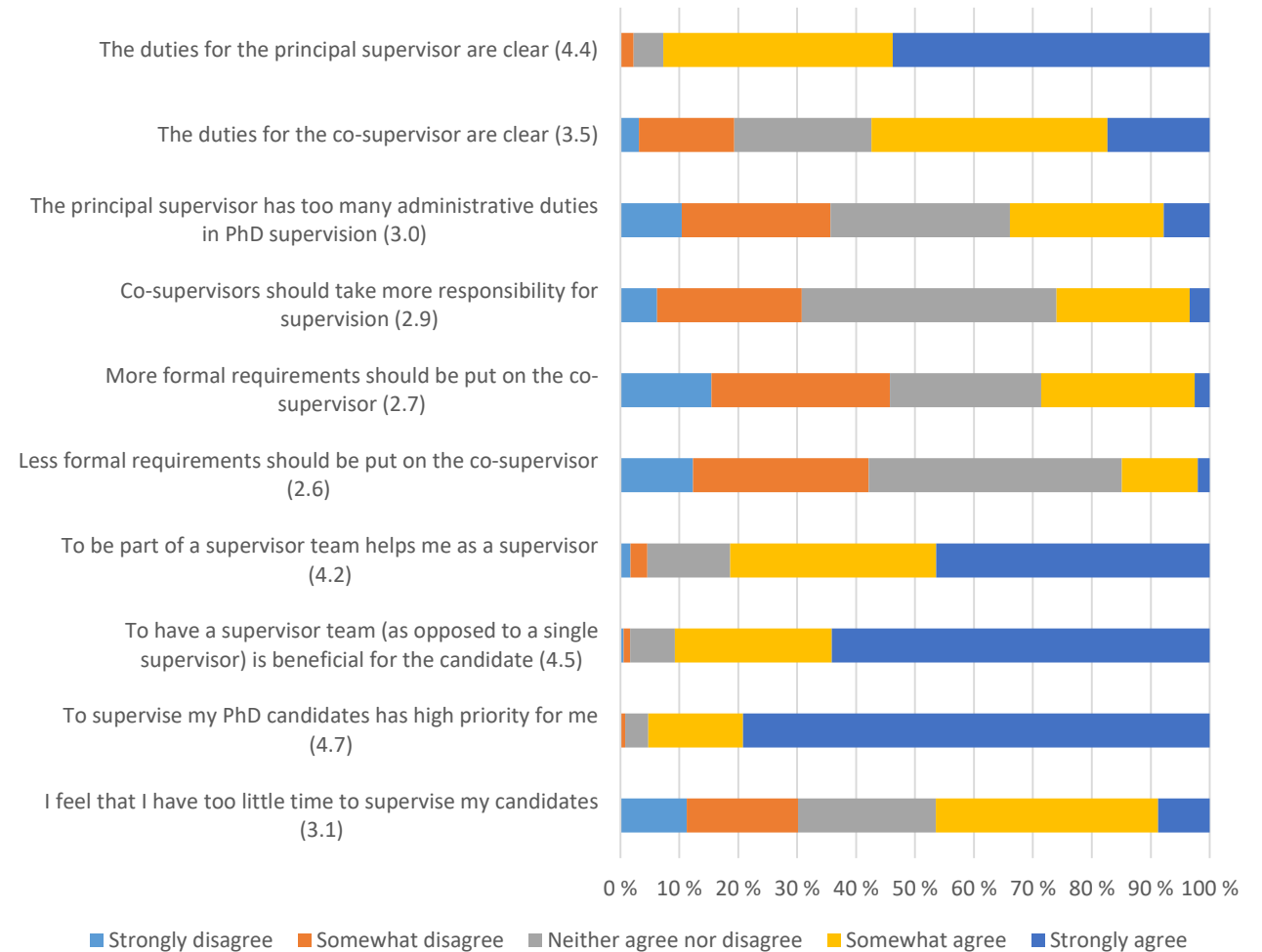


...and less often as a co-supervisor



Aspects of supervision and supervisor teams

- Supervisors feel the duties are less clear for co-supervisors than for principal supervisors
- Less than half of the supervisors agree that the duties and formal requirements of co-supervisors should be changed
- Supervisors find supervisor teams useful for themselves and beneficial for candidates
 - On a separate question, two was considered the optimal number of co-supervisors*
- Supervisors prioritize supervision of PhD candidates, but around half feel that they have too little time for it

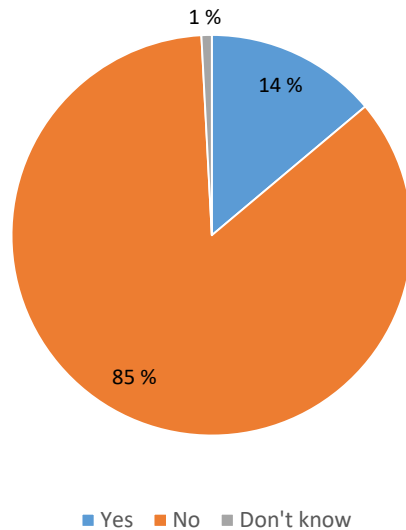


Conflicts in supervision

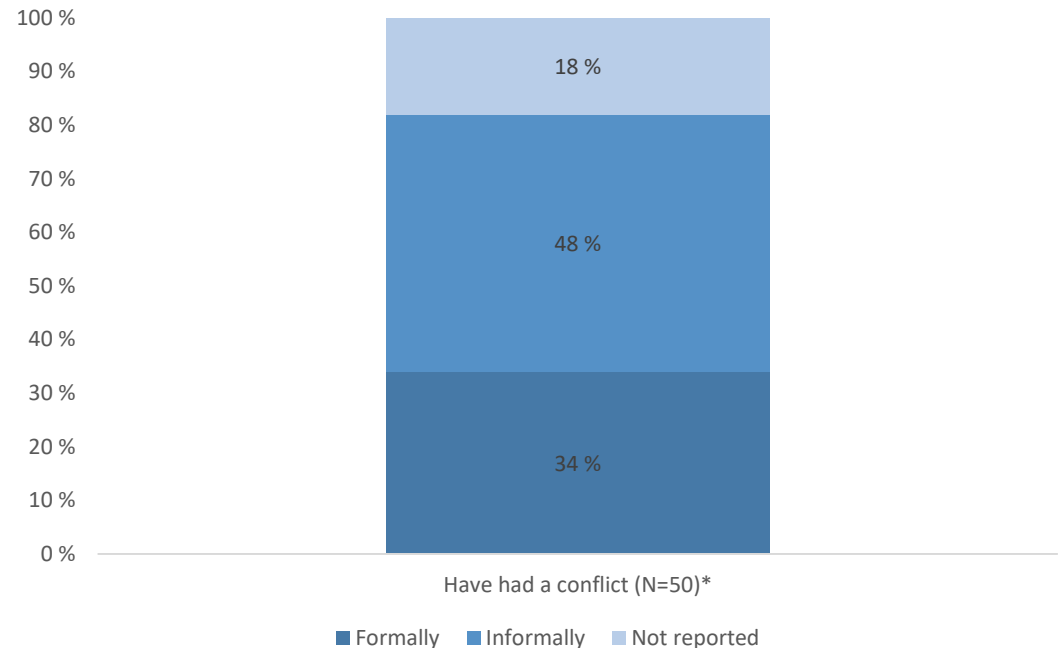
Over 90 % of supervisors have someone with whom to discuss challenges related to supervision

Only a small share report having had any conflicts that they could not resolve on their own...

Have you ever had a conflict with one of your candidates that you could not resolve between each other?



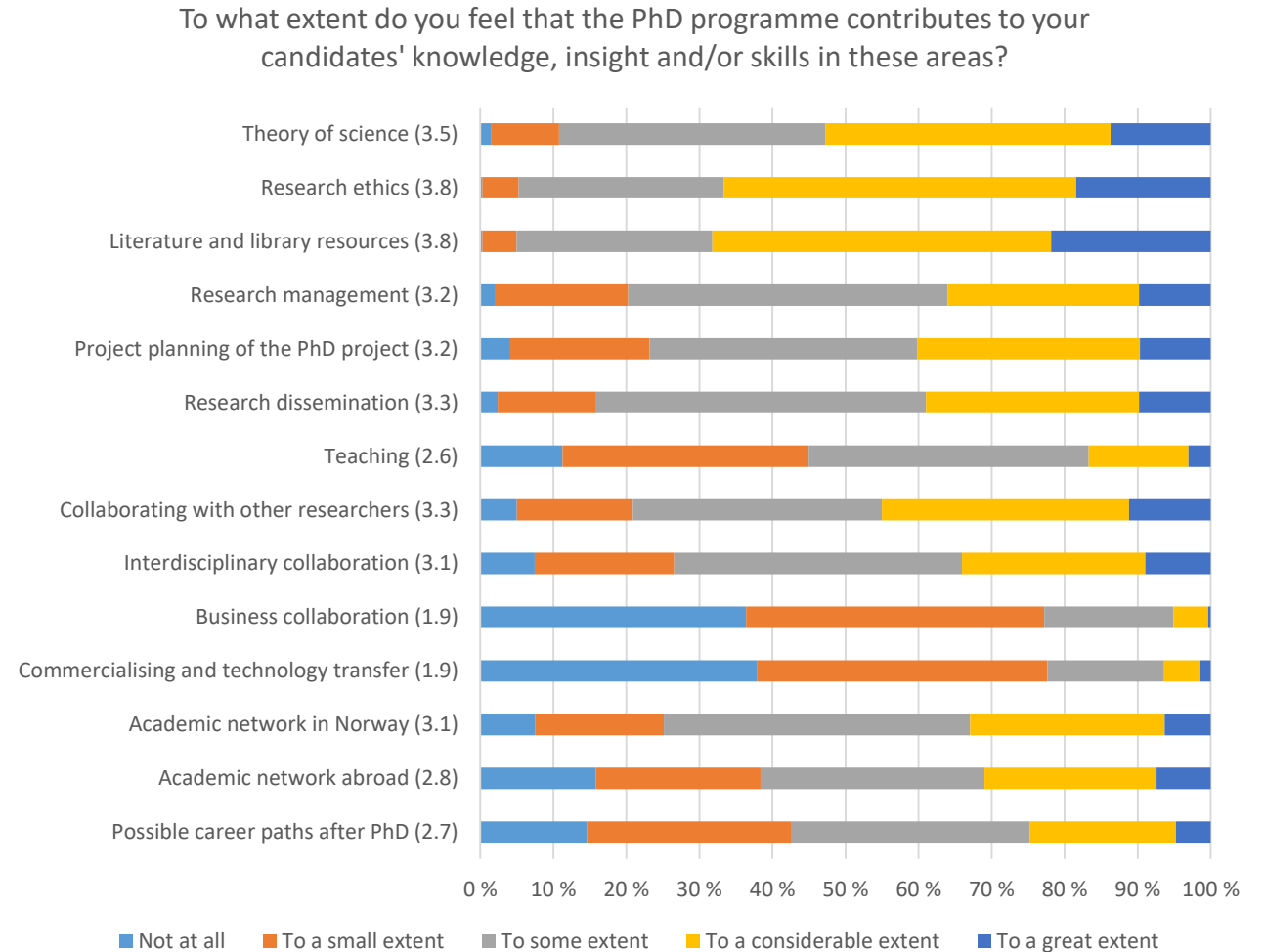
...but many of these have reported such conflicts formally or informally



*Grouping is based on the question "Have you ever had a conflict with one of your candidates that you could not resolve between each other?"

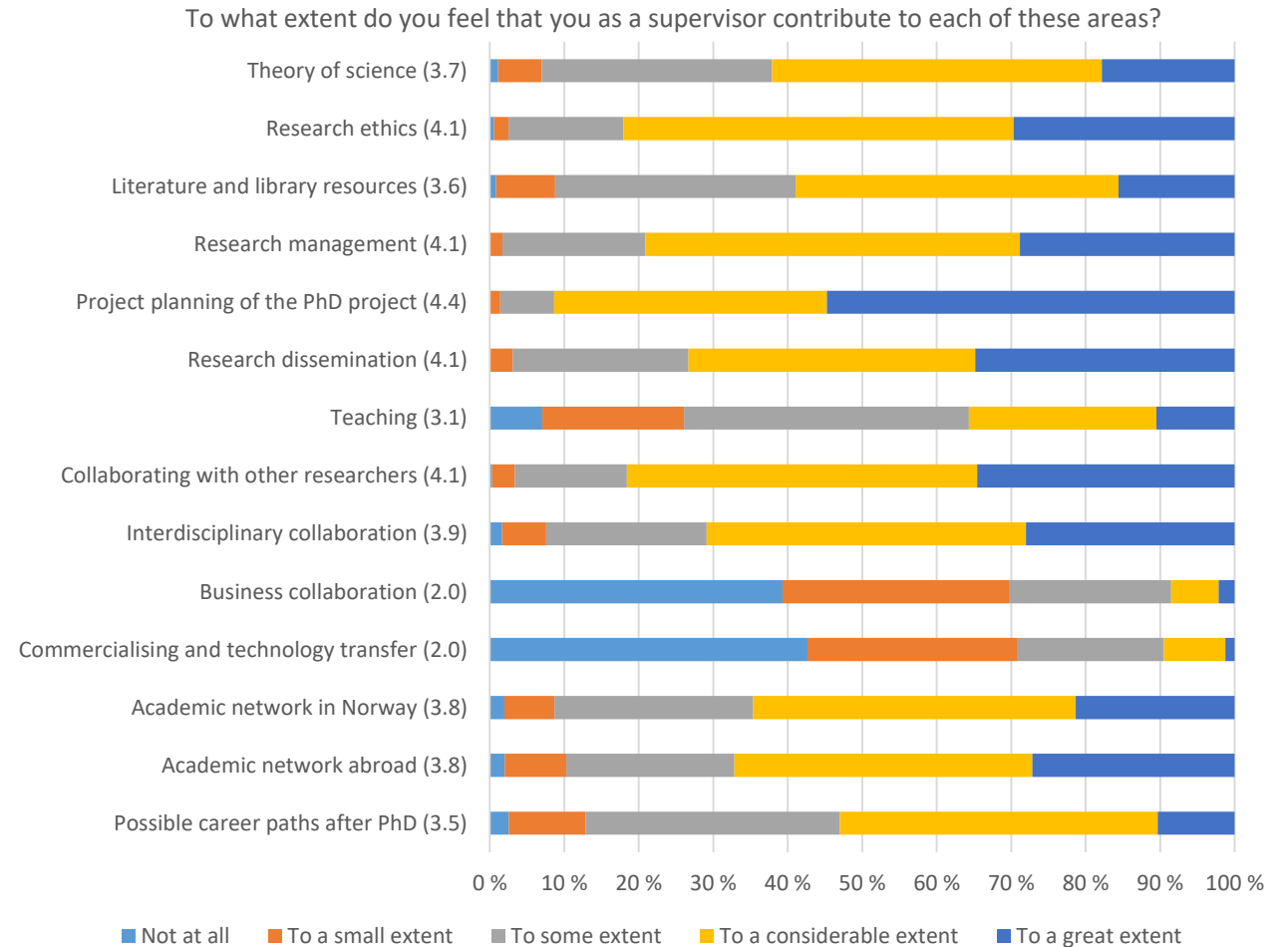
Learning outcomes in the PhD programme

- Supervisors' opinions about the PhD programme's contribution to their candidates' learning are only moderately positive
- Theory of science, research ethics, and literature/library resources** are the areas where they feel the PhD programme contributes the most
- Business collaboration and commercialising and technology transfer** stands out as areas where they feel that the programme contributes very little



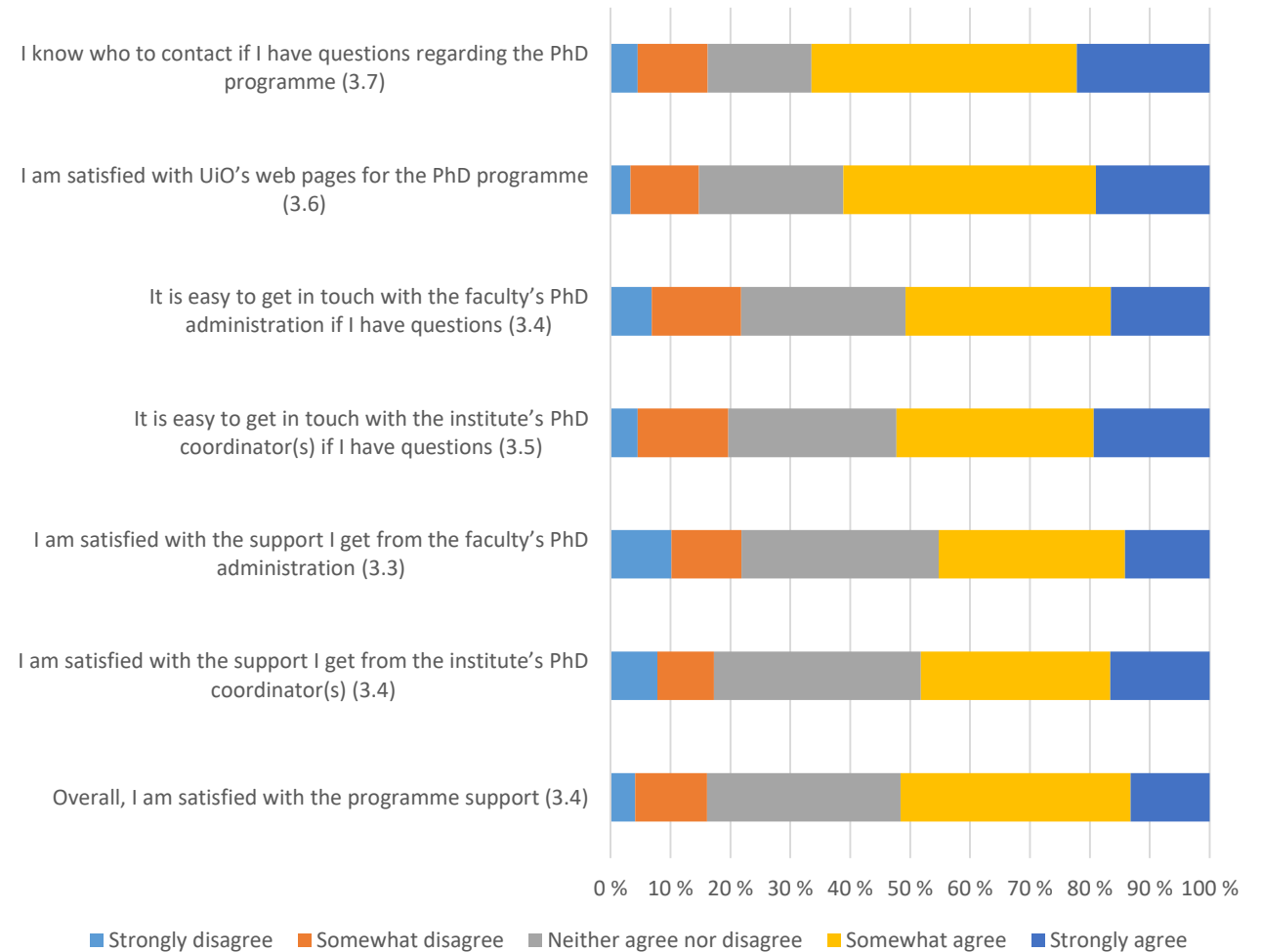
Supervisors' own contributions to learning outcomes

- Supervisors generally feel that they contribute to almost all learning outcomes of the PhD programme
- **Research ethics, research management, project planning, and research dissemination** are areas where they feel they contribute the most
- They also feel they make large contributions to areas related to **academic collaboration** and **networking**
- **Business collaboration** and **commercialising and technology transfer** stands out as areas where they feel they do not contribute that much



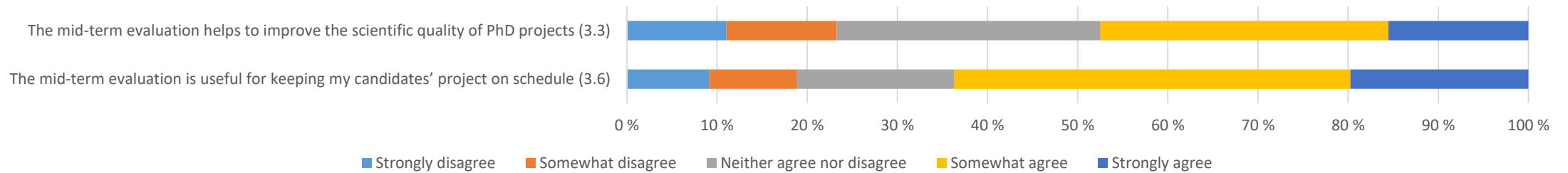
Satisfaction with the PhD programme support

- Supervisors' ratings of the programme support are generally similar across the different aspects
- The **web pages** for the PhD programme is viewed most favourably
- Around half find it easy to **get in touch with** the PhD administration and PhD coordinators
- Less than half say they are satisfied with **the support** from the administration and the coordinators
- Only around 15 % say they are **not** satisfied with the programme support overall

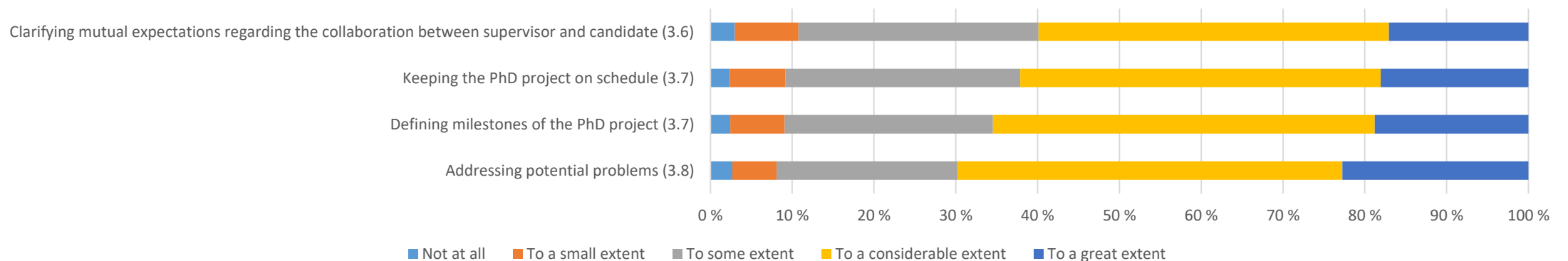


Mid-term evaluation and performance appraisals

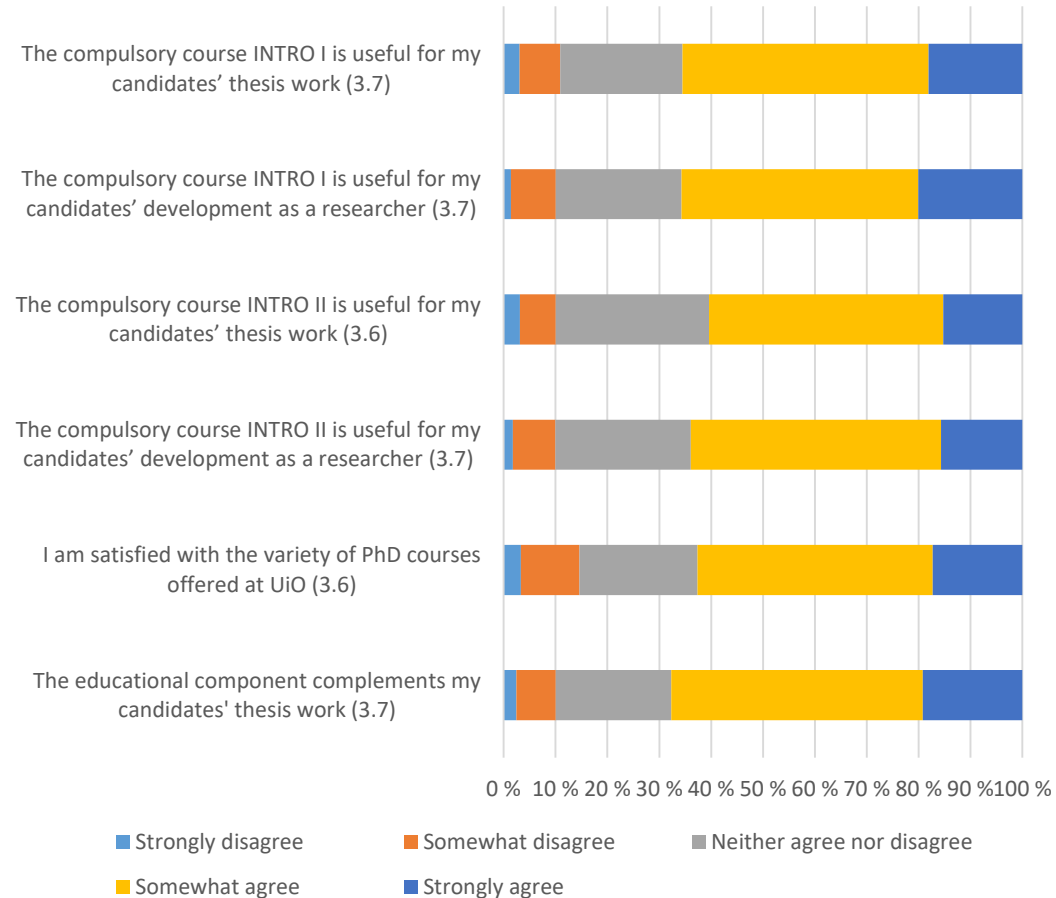
A majority of supervisors feel that mid-term evaluations contribute positively to the quality and progress of PhD projects...



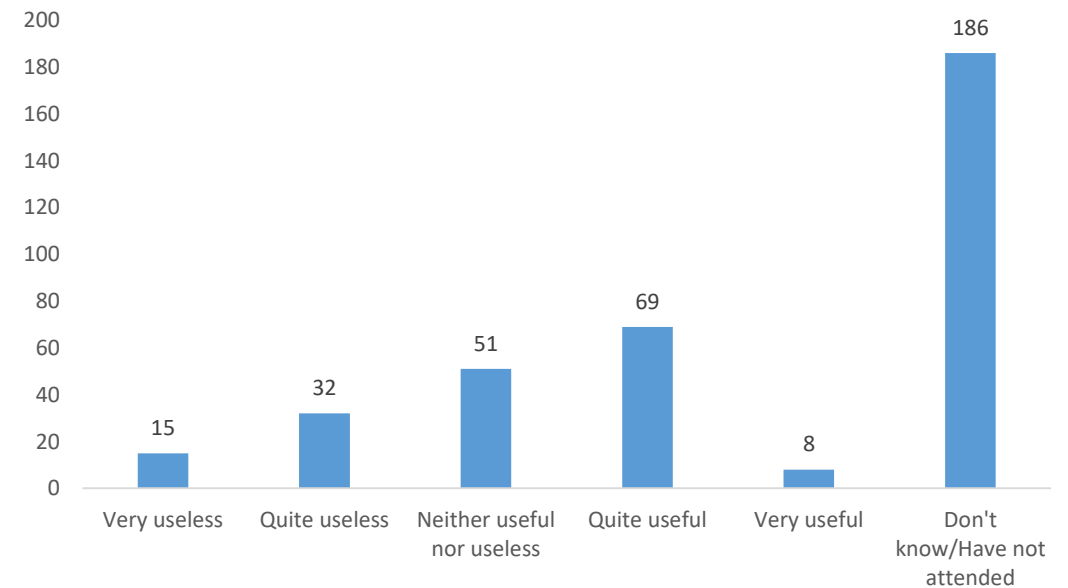
...and see performance appraisals as generally useful for PhD projects and for the candidate-supervisor relationship



Most supervisors are generally satisfied with the educational component...



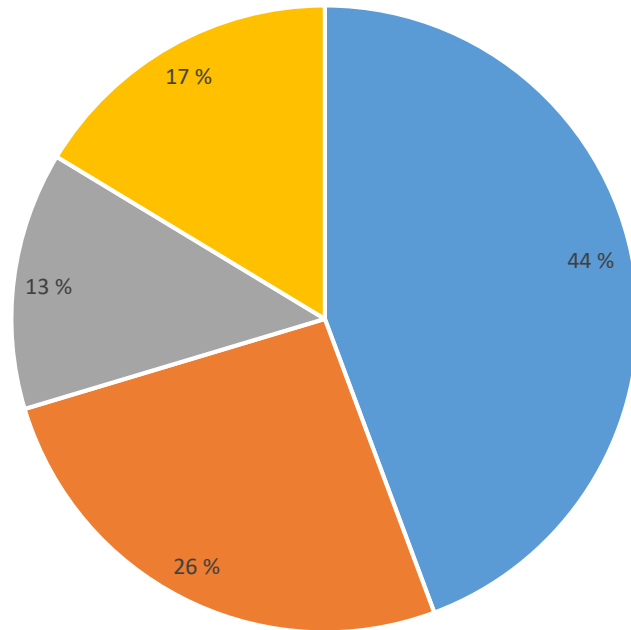
...but opinions about the usefulness of attending INTRO I are mixed



Supervisors are required to attend the first half day of INTRO I. How useful do you find this introduction for you as a supervisor?

Nearly half of the supervisors say they would find a discussion forum useful...

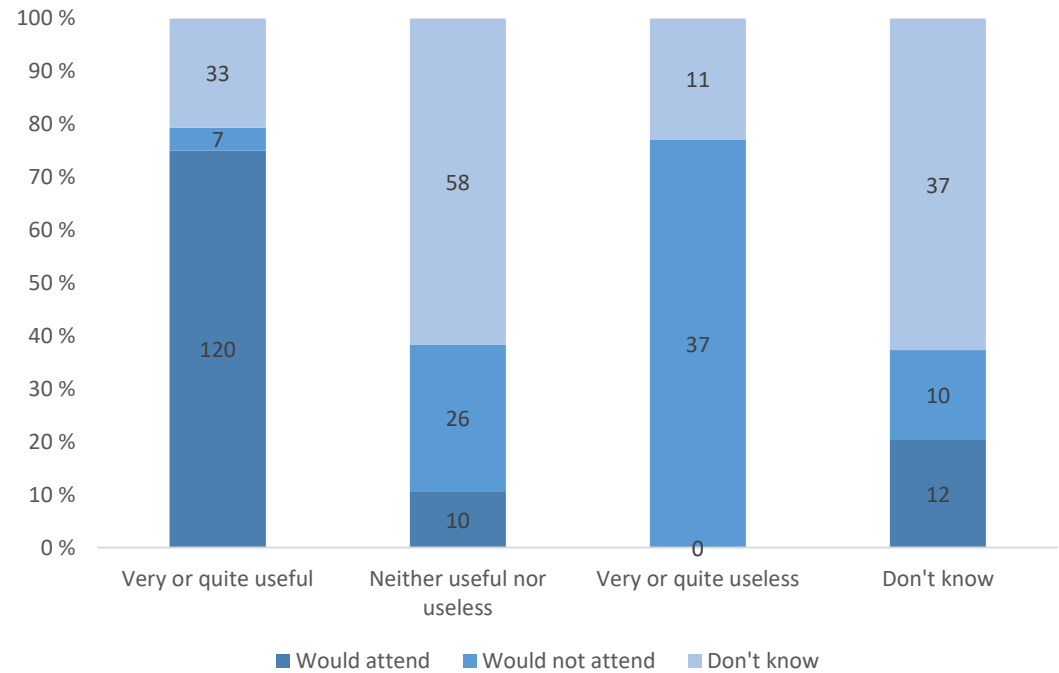
How useful would you find a forum to informally discuss and/or address challenges related to supervision?



■ Very or quite useful ■ Neither useful nor useless ■ Very or quite useless ■ Don't know

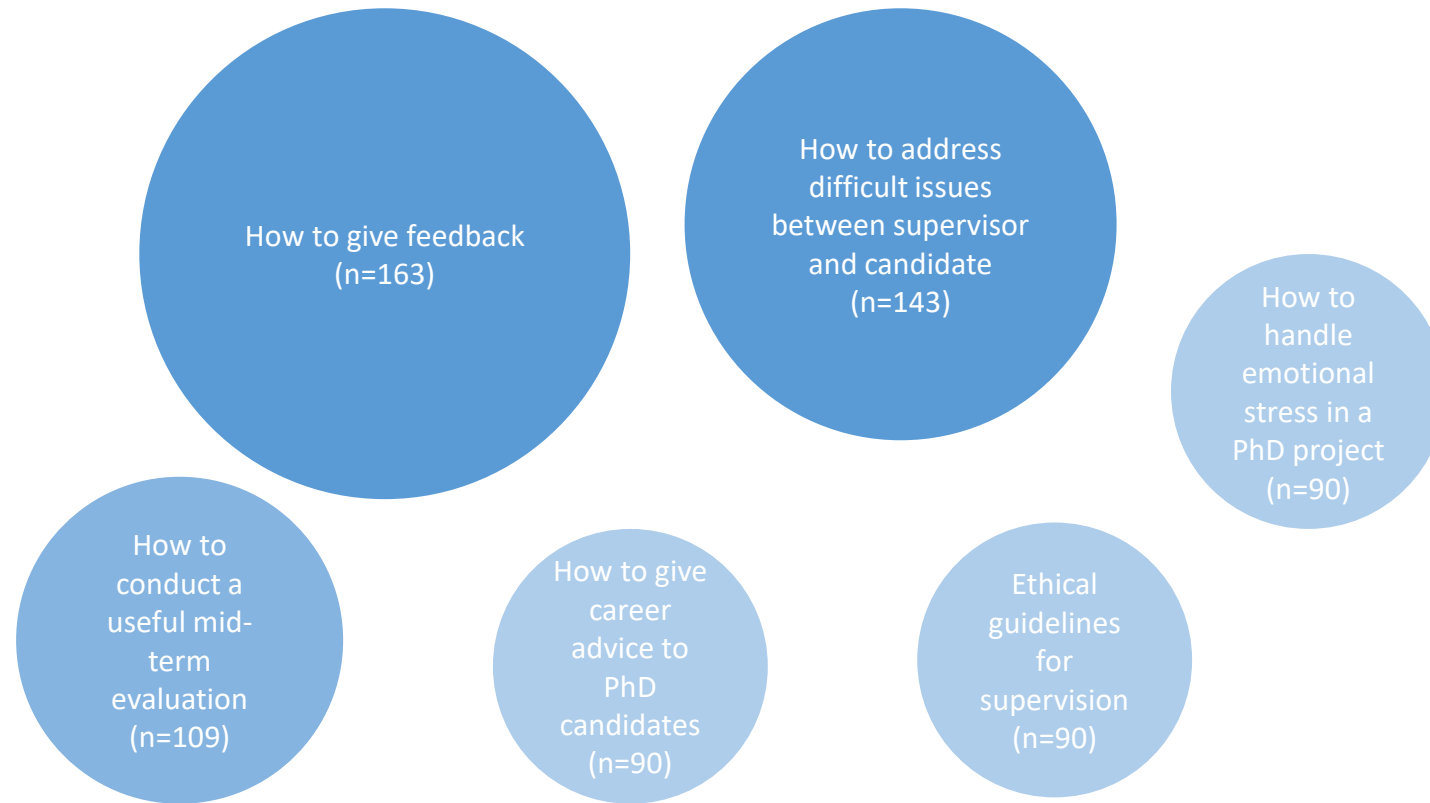
...and the majority of these would also attend it if offered

Would you attend such a forum, if offered?



Supervisors are most interested in courses addressing **how to give feedback** and **how to address difficult issues between supervisor and candidate**

The faculty might offer independent course modules for different aspects of PhD supervision in the future. Which of the following modules would you attend, if offered?



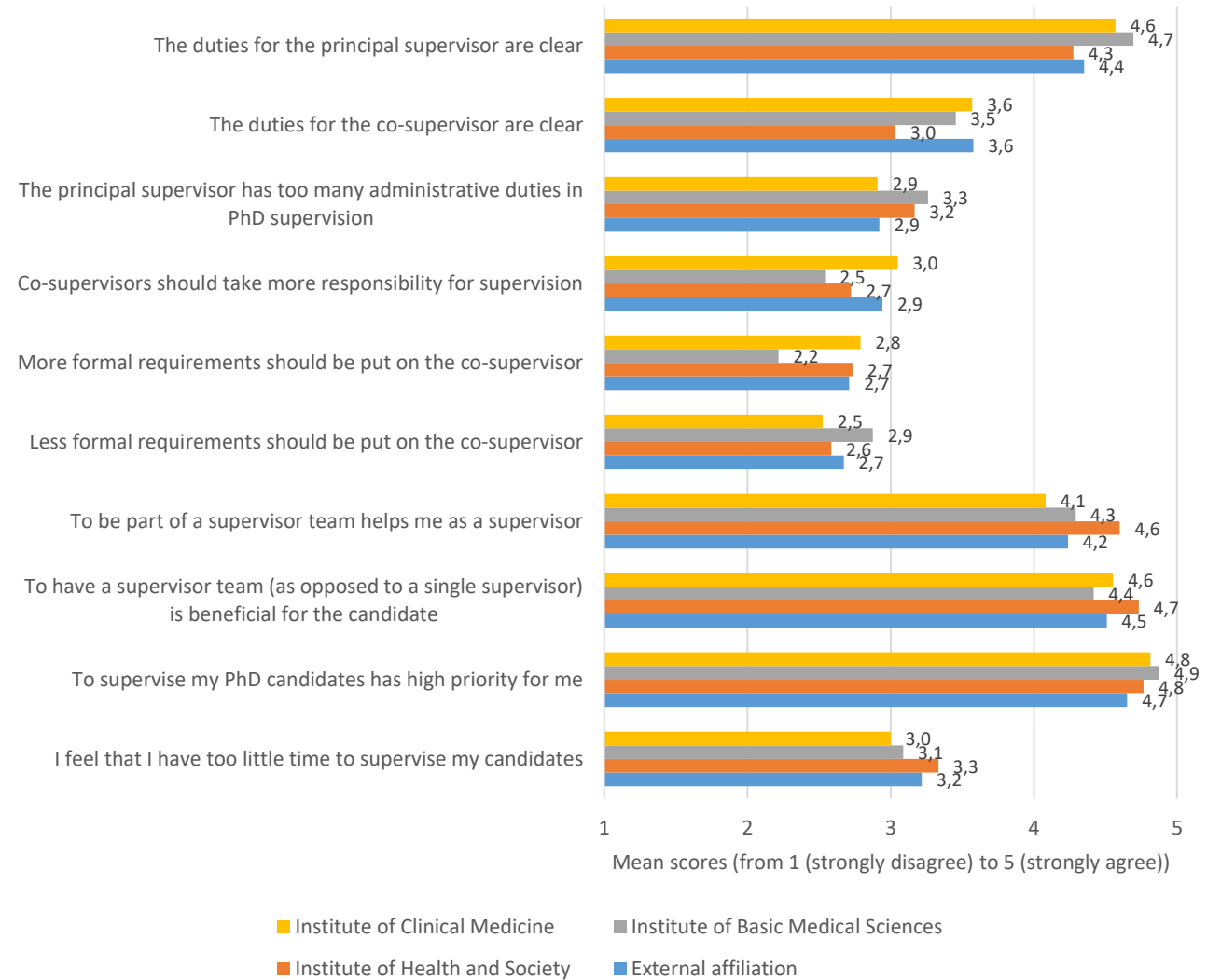
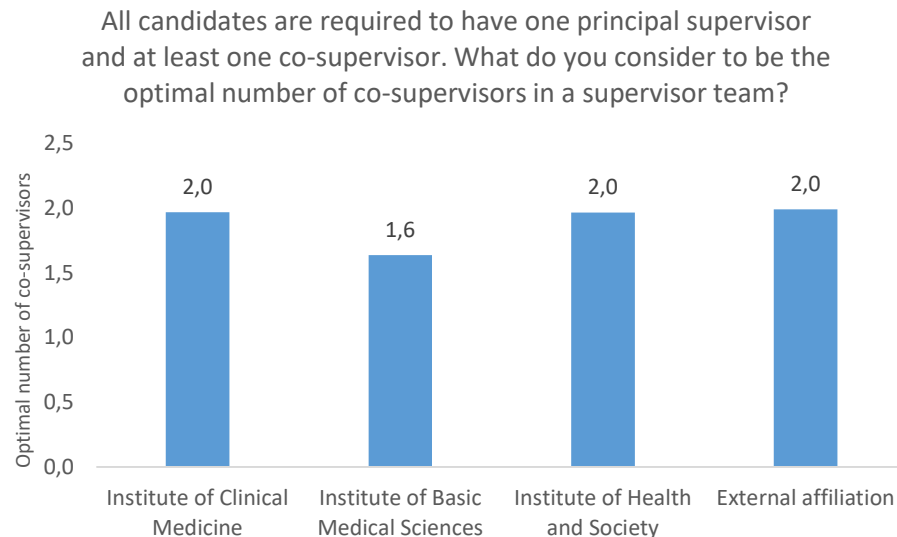
1
DESCRIPTIVE
RESULTS

2
ANALYSIS

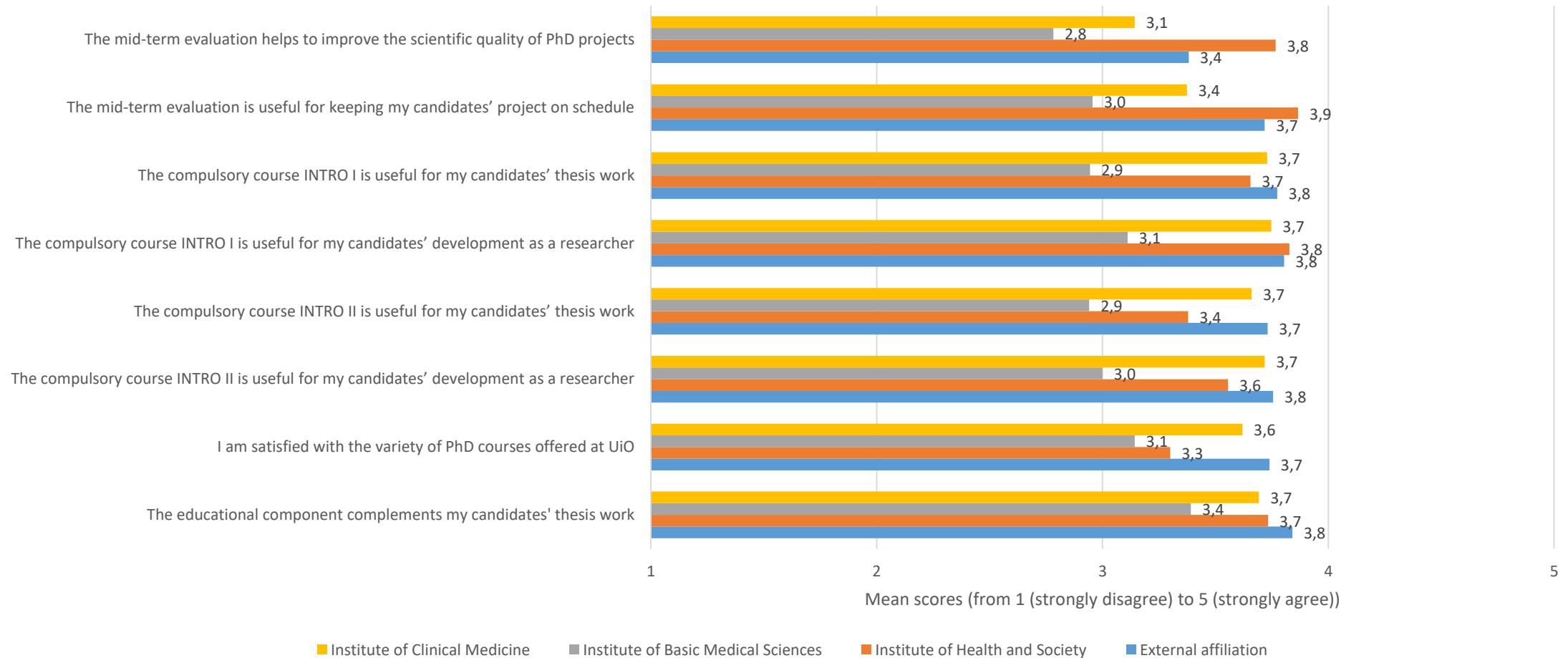
Few differences in aspects of supervision and supervisor teams

There are few notable differences in supervisors' opinions about supervision and supervisor teams between institutes. External supervisors do not stand out either (right diagram)

Supervisors affiliated with Institute of Basic Medical Sciences might, on average, prefer slightly smaller supervisor teams (diagram below)

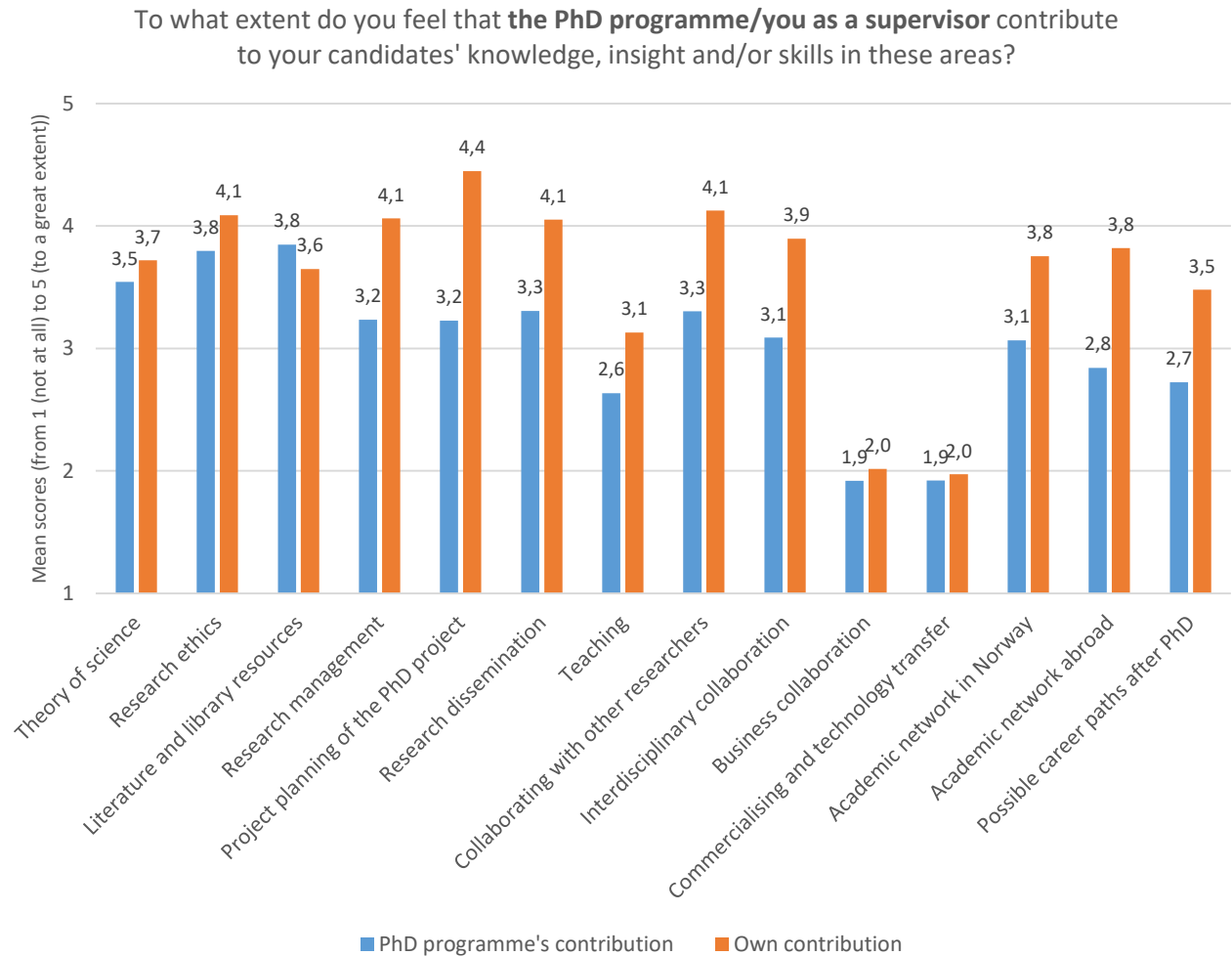


Supervisors from Institute of Basic Medical Sciences rate the mid-term evaluation and the educational component consistently lower



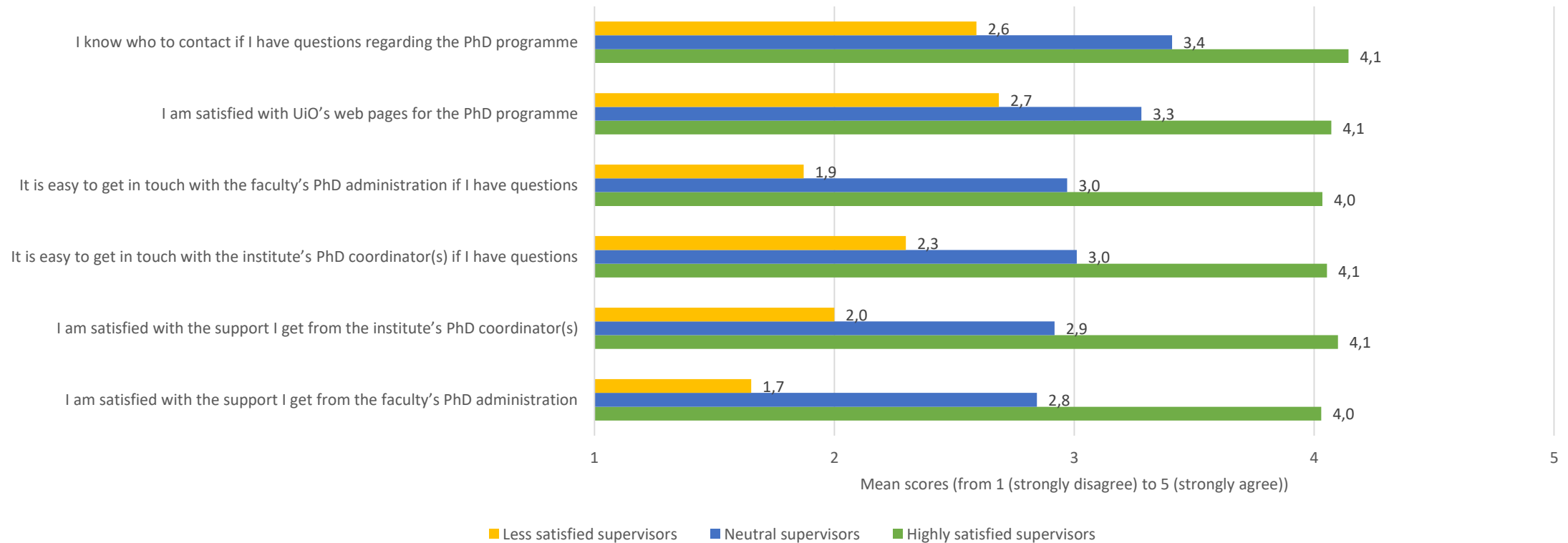
Learning outcomes: PhD programme versus own contribution

- Supervisors consider their own contribution to learning outcomes as equal to or larger than the contribution from the PhD programme
- They do so across all areas
- **Business collaboration and commercialising and technology transfer** clearly stands out as areas where supervisors feel neither the PhD programme nor themselves make any large contributions



PhD programme support: Less satisfied supervisors rate the different aspects consistently lower

Differences in ratings are most notable for the **PhD administration's availability and support**



*Grouping is based on the question "Overall, I am satisfied with the programme support". Less satisfied supervisors answered "strongly disagree" and "somewhat disagree". Neutral supervisors answered "Neither agree nor disagree". Highly satisfied supervisors answered "strongly agree" or "somewhat agree".

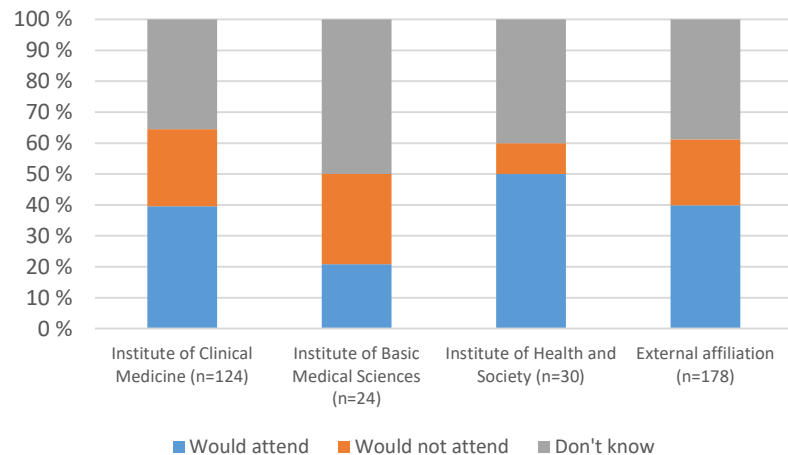
These supervisors also rate other aspects of the PhD programme lower, indicating that they might be less satisfied with the PhD programme in general



*Grouping is based on the question "Overall, I am satisfied with the programme support". Less satisfied supervisors answered "strongly disagree" and "somewhat disagree". Neutral supervisors answered "Neither agree nor disagree". Highly satisfied supervisors answered "strongly agree" or "somewhat agree".

Differences related to supervisor training

- Over 60 % of external supervisors have not attended INTRO I (right diagram)
- Supervisors from Institute of Basic Medical Sciences found it least useful
- Around 60 % of supervisors from Institute of Clinical Medicine and Institute of Health and Society have attended, and around half of these found it useful
- Supervisors from Institute of Health and Society seem most interested in attending a discussion forum for challenging issues:



Attendance and usefulness of INTRO I

