

1. Title / Titel: *Analysis of graduation delay*

2. Abstract / Samenvatting (max. 60 woorden/words)

Although WIAS PhD students graduate faster than the national average, the KNAW advised us, at our re-accreditation in 2000, to reduce graduation delay. First we made an analysis of the causes of graduation delay, and this yielded suggestions for several measures. Median time to graduation has dropped from 5.2 (cohort 1994) to 4.7 years (cohorts after 1997).

3. Objectives / Beoogde doelen

[What are the main objectives?]

With the analysis we aimed to discover what the causes of graduation delay are, how they interact and how delay might be prevented or reduced.

4. Institutional Context / Organisatorische context

[How does the project/process fit into the institutional quality programme?]

From its start, the graduate school WIAS took care of the quality control of PhD project proposals by having them externally reviewed on a) scientific quality, b) feasibility in four years. Time to graduation and percentage of drop-outs were both lower than the national average, so not a big issue then. This changed in 2000 when the KNAW put it on the agenda and became more urgent when the rules for unemployment benefit of former PhD students were tightened.

5. Implementation / Implementatie

[How is the project/process run and who has responsibility for important tasks?]

Gab van Winkel, the secretary of WIAS, undertook the investigation, collected data, questioned graduates and supervisors, did the analysis and wrote the report. The outcome was discussed in a workshop on PhD supervision.

6. Illustration / Illustratie

[An illustration of the project/process in practice]

See attached report.

7. Evaluation / Evaluatie

[How do you know the project/process has been successful?]

The analysis led to several measures and changes in practice. Median time to graduation has dropped from 5.2 (cohort 1994) to 4.7 years (cohorts after 1997).

8. Additional remarks

The total analysis took about four months and 0.2 fte.

9. Contact / Contactpersoon voor nadere informatie

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