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# Doctoral Mentor

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## Concept

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TU Darmstadt has introduced a doctoral mentor to support its doctoral students. In addition to the first supervisor (doctoral mother/doctoral father), each doctoral candidate is accompanied by a doctoral mentor during the doctoral thesis project. This mentor is available for discussion and consultation, especially in case of questions regarding the course of the doctorate and career development of the doctoral candidate and the first supervisor.

In case of problems or disagreements in the doctoral supervision, the doctoral candidates can also contact their doctoral mentors. In addition, the ombudspersons in the department are also available as contact persons.

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## Choosing a Doctoral Companion

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At the beginning of the thesis work, the doctoral candidate and the first supervisor jointly determine a doctoral mentor who will accompany the doctorate and who will be available especially for questions regarding the course of the doctorate and career development. The name of the mentor is stated in the acceptance application form the doctoral candidate submits to the department.

The doctoral mentor

- should be a member of the TU Darmstadt,
- should be able to act on an equal footing with the first supervisor,
- should not be dependent on the first supervisor or the doctoral candidate,
- should be familiar with the doctoral culture in mechanical engineering,
- does not have to be an expert in the field of the thesis.

The doctoral mentor does not usually take on the tasks of an academic cooperating or examining second supervisor, but can be the second supervisor/co-examiner in the course of the doctoral process.

The doctoral mentor should belong to the group of scientists who comply with the regulations in §11 of the General Provisions of the Doctoral Regulations of the TU Darmstadt.

There are two options:

1. individual selection of a doctoral mentor according to the criteria mentioned above.
2. selection of a person who will be doctoral mentor for doctoral candidates working on a specific subject area by default. This requires a prior agreement between the doctoral companion and the first supervisor.

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## Accompaniment

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It is your initiative that counts! If you need to talk, you can approach your doctoral mentor and arrange a meeting. This way you can receive advice, get new perspectives, and discuss strategies on how to move forward in your doctoral project and beyond.

We recommend that you arrange a meeting with your doctoral mentor at the beginning of your doctorate in order to get to know each other and to jointly determine how the accompaniment can be structured.