



Establishment of a Buddy system for PhD candidates at BIOVIT

What is a Buddy system and how should it function?

A Buddy system for new PhD candidates is an arrangement where the new candidate, at the start of the research education period, is connected with already experienced PhD candidates at the department/faculty. The purpose is to help new PhD candidates become more familiar with BIOVIT and more quickly included in the academic and social PhD environment. A Buddy (NO: fadder) is one that you can ask about both practical and administrative procedures in relation to being a PhD candidate at BIOVIT.

Who can be a Buddy and how many Buddies should a PhD candidate have?

A PhD Buddy is a 2nd or 3rd year PhD candidate who are physically located (has an office) at BIOVIT. A Buddy should not be chosen at random, preferably 2 persons within the PhD candidate's research group or adjoining scientific area, and preferably one of each sex. PhD Buddies are particularly important at the start of the research education period and are appointed for 1 year. It is possible to be asked to be a Buddy more than once and for more PhD candidates at the same time, but this responsibility should ideally be shared between as many PhD candidates as possible. For foreign PhDs, it is advisable to have a Norwegian and a foreign Buddy. In this way, he/she can get help with information, advice and questions regarding the PhD program in general as well as advice regarding being a foreign student in Norway/NMBU/BIOVIT.

Who proposes/nominates PhD Buddies?

For the Buddy system to fulfil its purpose, the Buddy system begins ideally at the date of employment and before formal admission to the PhD program. Proposals for Buddies for new PhD candidates should be obtained from the main supervisor/project manager and/or the research group leader who also forward the request to potential Buddies. The Research Education Advisor at BIOVIT is informed about the name of the chosen Buddies at the time of employment of the new candidate.