

Basic information and Expectations MSc/BSc supervision at VPL – Please read

Welcome to VPL!

General

Our group is happy to receive inquiries for supervision. If the topic fits, we aim to supervise you, but sometimes time may be limited. We supervise in English and German.

Topics

Sometimes we have specific topics, but we are happy to supervise topics that students come up with themselves.

We are generally willing to supervise the following topics:

1. All topics that relate to mobility and transport. Note that our expertise does not cover all topics equally well, nor that we are experts in all methods. We will aim nonetheless to supervise all topics that relate to mobility and transport, but supervision on the content depends on experiences and knowledge of individuals.
2. All topics that use methods we are using ourselves. This includes mostly quantitative methods, such as statistical analyses of existing data, the collection of data via questionnaires and their analyses. Some staff members also have experience in in-depth-interviews and focus groups. The topic of the dissertation does not need to correspond with mobility or transport in that case, but we may restrict supervision to the method.

Contact

If you wish one of us to supervise, please contact Prof. Eva Heinen directly by email. In this initial contact, please indicate:

- whether it is a Bsc or Msc dissertation
- what your timeline is
- if you have a topic/method in mind

If you already have (part of) an expose, please share this as well

Meetings

The number of meetings varies between students. Generally, we meet most students around three times, but this is not a hard rule. Generally, we would recommend to meet once to discuss the expose. If you are collecting empirical data, it is also strongly recommended to discuss this in detail as well, well before you start collecting this data (i.e. don't expect to conduct your questionnaire a week after sharing it with us). Meetings should be initiated by the student. Our staff member may request you to do this in different ways. Prof. Eva Heinen uses a meeting system, which is shared after a first positive enquiry.

Registration

If we accept you as a student, we would like you to register. We understand that this sometimes happens quickly after the first contact as you may wish to start right away. Sometimes there will be a large gap, as you may wish to orient early. Either way is fine.

Generally, we will have one meeting before you register. This is used to discuss topics or your expose. Sometimes a second meeting is useful if the first is a short meeting to set your topic. Other meetings will generally only take place after registering. We trust that you register if we have a second meeting with you. Flexibility to this rule is mainly offered if you study part-time.

Second supervisor

The second supervisor needs to be someone outside our group. There are potentially other conditions. It is your role to identify and organize a second supervisor.