



UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

FINNISH INSTITUTE FOR
EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Date

28.2.2025

RESEARCH NOTIFICATION/ INVITATION

1. Invitation to participate in the research “*Experiences of Nordic doctoral students and early career researchers focusing on VET research*”

We ask you to participate in the study “*Experiences of Nordic doctoral students and early career researchers focusing on VET research*”. The study investigates the experiences of doctoral students and early career researchers who are conducting their doctoral studies in relation to the field of vocational education and training (VET) or have finished their studies in this field in less than five years’ time in one of the Nordic countries (Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland). The project explores how the supervisory relations, guidance and networking during doctoral studies as well as other possible students’ activities support their evolving agency as beginning researchers.

The knowledge produced in the project will inform the development of supervision and mentoring of doctoral students who focus on the field of VET. The findings increase understanding about the experiences of early career researchers and benefit enhancement of research capacities in the field of Nordic VET. While the experiences of doctoral students and early career researchers in terms of transition to the world of work have been studied to some extent, research among doctoral students and early career researchers focusing on investigating VET in the Nordic countries, has not been conducted.

Informants will be recruited for the study by means of a snowball sampling method. You are invited to the study because you investigate VET as part of doctoral studies or have recently completed PhD where you have explored topics related to VET in one or more than one of the Nordic countries. The study addresses doctoral students and early career researcher from various disciplines (e.g. education, social sciences, business education, history, philosophy, information technology). This research notification describes the study and related participation. The attachment (Privacy Notice) provides information on the processing of your personal data.

This is a single study. However, you may be contacted later for a further study (interview) if you give your consent for taking such contact.

Altogether, the study aims to include 5–20 informants from each of the Nordic countries (Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland).

2. Voluntariness

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can refuse to participate in the study, stop participating or cancel your previously given consent, without stating any reason for this, and at any time during the study. This will have no negative consequences to you.

If you stop participating in the study or if you cancel your consent, the personal data, and other information collected on you up to that point will be used as part of the research material as far as it is necessary in order to ensure relevant research outcomes.

3. Progress of the study

You are invited to answer to structured survey questions and some open-ended questions, which are sent to you by email which includes a link to the online survey.

Your answering the survey will last 30 to 60 minutes. In the beginning of the online survey you are invited to give your consent to participation to the study. The survey itself focusses on your background information and experiences about doctoral studies or being early career researcher. The themes of the survey are: background information, your personal reasons and motivations for choosing a doctoral research topic focussing in vocational education and training, your experiences about supervision and being a member of the researchers' community of practice, and personal development as a professional researcher during your doctoral studies/early career researcher and how do you find the institutional, university's structures' support for doctoral studies.

In the end of the survey, we ask further for your interest and contact information for participating in an interview. Each informant who has given consent to participate in a further interview may be invited to give additional information for some topics which arise from the survey if they agree. The surveys will be analysed via text data.

The possible further interviews will be conducted online and audio-recorded and transcribed. Personal information as well as information about the university, collegial community and fellow students and researchers will be pseudonymized at both the survey and interview phase.

The survey will be conducted in spring 2025 and analysed in 2025–26. The possible individual interviews will be conducted in autumn 2025.

4. Possible benefits from the study

The project benefits the development of supervision of doctoral students focussing on VET in the Nordics and aims to enhance the research capacity in the field.

It also gives individual interviewees an opportunity to reflect and analyse their experiences and development as a beginning researcher.

5. Possible risks, harm, and inconvenience caused by the study as well as preparing for these

Participation in the study is not expected to cause any risks, harm or inconvenience, except for voluntary reflection of personal memories and experiences.

6. Study-related costs and compensations to the subject as well as research funding

No rewards will be paid for participation in the study.

7. Informing about research results and research outcomes

Findings from this research will be published in conference presentation, scientific journals as well as blog-posts. Findings will also be used to inform policy and practice by governments, and universities, as well as for to inform supervisors and developers of doctoral education.

The research subjects cannot be identified from the findings and publications.

8. Insurance coverage for research subjects

The University of Jyväskylä has insurances for its activities and research subjects.

In the case of research interview conducted remotely, the insurance of the University of Jyväskylä compensates only for damage that is directly related to the assigned research task and that has occurred during the actual guided research task. The insurance does not cover accidents that occur during breaks.

The insurances of the University of Jyväskylä are not valid in the case of research interview conducted remotely if a research subject's home municipality is not in Finland.

The set of insurance includes a malpractice insurance, an operational liability insurance, and an optional insurance against accidents. During the research activities, the subjects are covered by the insurance for accidents, damages and injuries inflicted by an external cause.

9. Contact person for further information

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