

Dear Margarida

Hope this is of help. Probably I am too critical?

Arno

### **Comments and recommendations PhD programme**

The Ph.D program including the selection of candidates is very well organized and really professional. And the program is a success, which is a great accomplishment. As for the structure of the program I am a bit confused. To me doing a Ph.D is about conducting research and writing about the results of this research. A successful Ph.D candidate shows he/she is capable of doing according to the standards you expect from academics. Over the last 5½ years 7 people successfully completed a Ph.D under my supervision. Some did not take any courses, the ones who did took academic writing, presenting or integrity. General skills. Like in the NOVA program the one about methodology. I do not see value in offering law courses on private law or European law to Ph.D students. And, at least 60 erts. seems way too much to me. What I would expect is that in the first year students work on a research plan, research question, provisional outline of the thesis, write an introductory chapter, etc. And present their research. Maybe some of these elements are part of the methodology course, but for a Ph.D candidate it is important to start as soon as possible with reading and writing about their topic. Maybe I misunderstood but one other aspect I did not understand was the supervisor outside NOVA. What is the link with NOVA then? I would suggest to have always at least one supervisor from NOVA. And, maybe that is already the case, but always have two supervisors (they might work jointly or one is daily supervisor and the other more from a distance).

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**Sent:** donderdag 30 december 2021 18:11

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**Subject:** PhD Programme in Law: Annual Reports

Dear Arno,

I hope that this email finds you well. I am contacting you in your capacity as member of the Panel of Scientific Advisors of our PhD Programme in Law.

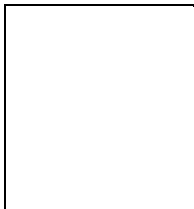
This Panel has 10 members. Each year, three of those members are asked to provide written feedback on our annual reports, with a view to the continuous improvement of our Programme. We must then submit that written feedback to our funding agency, the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology.

In this capacity, would you kindly take a look at the attached annual reports and let us know your comments and recommendations? I would say that, out of the two, the latest is the one that I would advise you to look at more closely, as it has a lot of information on recent changes to the Programme.

We would really appreciate your help. I believe that, when reading the reports, you will notice that past feedback was heard and has had a positive impact on our Programme. So there is a very relevant substantial purpose to this request.

I take this opportunity to send you season's greetings and to wish you a very happy 2022.

Kind regards,  
Margarida



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