

## EVALUATION HONOURS PROGRAMME 2021

The Honours Programme for Future Researchers is evaluated annually. For this purpose, the students and supervisors of the programme are surveyed with a standardized questionnaire. The programme evaluation is carried out by the central office for teaching evaluation of FSU Jena.

38 students and 35 supervisors participated in the 2021 survey.

### RESULTS OF THE STUDENTS SURVEY:

Of the participants, 32 are studying in a master's programme, 3 in a bachelor's programme and 3 in a state examination programme. 3 participants belong to the group of international students. 84% of the participants state that they plan to do a doctorate, 11% are still undecided; only 2 people indicated that they did not wish to pursue a doctorate after their studies.

The survey revealed that there is a high level of satisfaction with the Honours Programme overall among students and that the programme is achieving its defined objectives:

summarizing statements *	2021		2020					
	N	M	M	1	2	3	4	5
1 The Honours Programme gives me a better understanding of how research works.	37	4.1	3.9		5%	14%	46%	35%
2 Thanks to the Honours Programme my interest in Research has increased.	36	4.3	4.3			14%	36%	47%
3 The Honours Programme has given me the chance to get in touch with the scientific community in my field of research.	36	3.2	3.0	17%	22%	11%	22%	28%
4 Thanks to the Honours Programme I have also gained insight into research cultures outside my own discipline.	37	4.2	4.8			27%	22%	49%
5 Thanks to the Honours Programme I have gained a social and professional network.	36	3.8	3.6		17%	14%	36%	31%
6 I would like to have more and closer interaction with the other Honours students.	37	4.1	3.5		5%	16%	43%	35%
7 The Honours Programme is a useful preparation for my planned career after graduation.	37	4.4	4.5			14%	24%	59%
8 Overall, I am satisfied with the Honours Programme.	36	4.6	4.5				31%	67%

Legend: 2021: Students 2021; 2020: Students 2020

\* In each case, the absolute frequency (N), the relative frequency (%) and the mean value (M) are given, which is marked by the purple bar in the graphical representation. The blue triangle shows the value of 2020 for comparison.

The high level of satisfaction is also reflected in the evaluation of the three programme components:

### 1. Honours Workshops

The range of offered workshops is very well received overall. All participants in the survey have taken part in at least one of the workshops offered, more than half of the respondents have attended 4 or more workshops.

Not only were the participants satisfied with the number of workshops (86% said the number of events was just right), but the workshops were also rated very positively in terms of content:

Assessment of the workshops	2021		2020					
	N	M	M	1	2	3	4	5
1 I was very satisfied with the choice of topics for the workshops offered.	36	4.3	4.2			11%	44%	42%
2 The events and workshops I attended were interesting in terms of content.	36	4.4	4.3			8%	42%	50%
3 I was able to train research-related key qualifications that go beyond my professional studies.	35	4.5	4.5			11%	26%	63%
4 The working atmosphere was stimulating.	35	4.7	4.5				29%	69%
5 Working in the interdisciplinary group was productive.	33	4.4	4.5			12%	33%	55%
6 Overall, I am satisfied with the Honours workshops.	36	4.5	4.3			6%	39%	56%

Legend: 2021: Students 2021; 2020: Students 2020

### 2. Honours Fund

The Honours Fund was used by 26 (=72%) of the survey participants. The 8 students who did not use the fund indicated that they had not had any research costs (partly because of cancelled conferences due to the pandemic). One person did not use the fund because research costs were funded by others.

Overall satisfaction with the Honours Fund is high:

Overall satisfaction Honours Funds	2021		2020					
	N	M	M	1	2	3	4	5
1 Overall, I am satisfied with the Honours Funds.	31	4.4	4.6			16%	13%	68%

Legend: 2021: Students 2021; 2020: Students 2020

### 3. Honours Mentoring

The vast majority of the participants in the survey stated that they receive advice and support from their supervisor in the honours programme with regard to professional matters (94%) and career planning (83%), 49% also see themselves supported with regard to their personal development.

All participants indicated that the Honours Mentoring enabled them to make progress in a number of areas:

Progress through mentoring	2021		2020	
	N	%	N	%
<i>[Multiple choices possible]</i>				
<i>Number of participants who answered this question</i>	36	100	11	100
I do not see any progress	0	0	0	0
professional knowledge in my discipline	29	81	8	73
methodological knowledge in my discipline	24	67	5	45
career orientation	27	75	6	55
practical career planning	26	72	7	64
self-assessment	21	58	8	73
Building a professional network	17	47	6	55
other	0	0	0	0

Legend: 2021: Students 2021; 2020: Students 2020

Compared to last year's survey, more progress was made in all areas except networking. One possible reason for this could be the limited opportunity for networking due to the covid pandemic with most events and workshops taking place digitally and conferences being cancelled.

Overall, the level of satisfaction with the Honours Mentoring is high, and it is even slightly higher in the 2021 survey (M=4.5) than in 2020 (M=4.3).

Assessment of the supervisor	2021		2020					
	N	M	M	1	2	3	4	5
<i>1=I strongly disagree ... 3=partly ... 5=I strongly agree</i>								
1 I have the impression that my supervisor is interested in my project and my development as a researcher.	35	4.5	4.6			9%	31%	60%
2 I have discussed with my supervisor at the beginning how we want to organise the mentoring process.	36	3.9	3.8	6%	17%	11%	7%	50%
3 I can contact my supervisor with questions and concerns.	36	4.6	4.6			11%	17%	72%
4 The meetings with my supervisor are well structured and expedient.	35	4.3	4.1			9%	37%	51%
5 My supervisor helps me to be engaged in research activities.	36	4.6	4.5		6%		22%	69%
6 I would like to receive more support in the mentoring process by the Graduate Academy.	36	3.1	2.8	6%	33%	19%	25%	17%
7 Overall, I am satisfied with the Honours Mentoring.	36	4.5	4.3			11%	28%	61%

Legend: 2021: Students 2021; 2020: Students 2020



## RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF SUPERVISORS:

Of the 34 supervisors who participated in the survey, 20 are professors and 14 are postdocs. Overall Satisfaction with the Honours Programme (item 4) has not changed since the previous year and is high (M=4.4), the respondents consider the programme goals to be achieved (items 1, 2, 3):

Summarizing statements	2021		2020					
	N	M	M	1	2	3	4	5
1 The Honours Programme gives students a deeper insight into research processes.	32	4.7	4.5				22%	75%
2 The Honours Programme gives students the chance to get in touch with the scientific community in their field of research.	32	4.4	4.3			9%	38%	53%
3 The Honours Programme is a useful preparation for their planned career after graduation.	32	4.7	4.4			9%	12%	78%
4 Overall, I am satisfied with the Honours Programme.	33	4.4	4.4				45%	52%

Legend: 2021: Supervisors 2021; 2020 ▲: Supervisors 2020

The high level of satisfaction is also reflected in the fact that 32 of the 33 supervisors who took part in the survey (=97%) would recommend to colleagues that they become involved in the Honours Programme.

The high level of commitment of the supervisors, which is clearly perceived by the students (see "Results of the student survey", item 3 *Satisfaction with Honours Mentoring*), is also reflected in the time spent by the supervisors per week:

Time spent	2021		2020	
	N	%	N	%
Number of participants who answered this question	31	100	9	100
0-1 hour	1	3	1	11
1,5-2,5 hours	14	45	3	33
3-4 hours	9	29	4	44
more than 4 hours	7	23	1	11

Legend: 2021: Supervisors 2021; 2020: Supervisors 2020

Like the students, the supervisors were also asked to indicate in which areas they had noticed development in the students during the mentoring period. Only one mentor stated that no development is noticed in their student, while all the others noted professional and personal development in the mentored students. The comparison of the supervisors' responses compared to the students' responses is striking: While the students saw their progress during the mentoring period strongly in the areas of "professional field orientation" and "concrete career planning" (75% and 72%), these areas are not noted to the same extent by the supervisors (see below). The supervisors, on the other hand, perceive a significantly stronger personal development of the students (73%) than the students themselves (58%). In this area in particular, however, the discrepancy between self-perception and perception by others is not surprising.

Compared to the results of the previous year, it is noticeable that the assessed progress in "building a network" has decreased. One possible reason for this is the covid pandemic, which made scientific exchange and the establishment of contacts more difficult overall.

Progress	2021		2020	
<i>[Multiple choices possible]</i>	N	%	N	%
Number of participants who answered this question	33	100	10	100
I do not see any progress	1	3	0	0
Professional knowledge in their discipline	25	76	4	40
Methodological knowledge in their discipline	24	73	5	50
Career orientation	12	36	3	30
Practical career planning	20	61	7	70
Self-assessment	24	73	8	80
Building a professional network	15	45	7	70
Other	0	0	0	0

Legend: 2021: Supervisors 2021; 2020: Supervisors 2020

Overall, the mentors are satisfied with the Honours Mentoring, just as they were in 2020:

Overall satisfaction with Honours Mentoring	2021		2020					
<i>1=I strongly disagree ... 3=partly ... 5=I strongly agree</i>	N	M	M	1	2	3	4	5
1 Overall, I am satisfied with the Honours Mentoring.	33	4.5	4.5				33%	61%

Legend: 2021: Supervisors 2021; 2020 ▲: Supervisors 2020