

Stipendiat Comments: Devine

As Head of Research, I recommend that the best thing for IMV as a whole is for these fellowships—both of them—to be awarded to people who will have their offices at ZEB, regardless of field, and who will be supervised by people who have their offices at ZEB, again regardless of field. IMV needs this in order to ensure the ongoing liveliness of the research culture in the ZEB building. And we owe it to our PhD candidates at ZEB (who are already becoming fewer and fewer), especially given that RITMO has a strong doctoral community in their building—and guaranteed future doctoral fellows as a condition of their research grant. IMV has no such certainty and, in the context of ongoing budget cuts, these PhDs will help to solidify some continuity and community in the doctoral research culture—which also increases the likelihood of IMV receiving future research grants. All of this is key to the more general research culture in ZEB. Note also that having two PhDs starting at the same time is something we haven't had at ZEB recently, and that a same-year cohort is important for the overall doctoral experience (intellectually and socially).

It also seems beneficial to prioritize potential supervisors at ZEB who have not yet had the opportunity for doctoral supervision in the Norwegian system, as such experience is crucial for their funding applications and eventual promotions.

What all this boils down to in an announcement text could be pretty straightforward. It might be something like: "The Department of Musicology at the University of Oslo welcomes applications for two doctoral fellowships that will be awarded to qualified candidates. The field of research is completely open, but priority will be given to applicants whose research interests are suited to one or more of the following supervisors: X, Y, and Z." I recognize that such an announcement text may create practical problems in terms of the hiring process itself, so it may be that the Board should prioritize two supervisors for the two stipendiats and craft two separate announcement texts.