

Guidelines for the order of authors of papers produced at SLU

Different subjects have different traditions regarding criteria for becoming the first author of a paper. Also, other circumstances may influence whether a doctoral student can be the first author. As SLU requires the student to be the corresponding author or equivalent of at least two of the papers in a compilation thesis, the order of authors should be decided using the same criteria.

The criteria listed below can be used when the order of authors of papers that make up a compilation thesis are discussed:

Authorship and co-authorship

All persons designated as authors must meet the criteria for authorship by certifying that:

- they have participated substantially in the conception and design of the work and the analysis of the data (when applicable);
- they have participated substantially in the writing of the manuscript;
- they have reviewed the final version of the manuscript, approved it for publication, and take public responsibility for its content;
- neither the manuscript in question, nor one with substantially similar content, has been published under their authorship or is being considered for publication elsewhere, except as described in an attachment.

The co-authors of a paper should be **all those who have made a significant scientific contribution to the work reported**, and who share responsibility and accountability for the results. Other contributions should be indicated in a footnote or an acknowledgments section.

An administrative relationship to the work does not itself qualify a person for co-authorship (but it may occasionally be appropriate to acknowledge major administrative assistance).

The author who submits a manuscript for publication (corresponding author) is responsible for making sure that only those who have actually contributed to the work are included as co-authors. The corresponding author should send each co-author a draft copy of the manuscript and obtained their assent to co-authorship before the manuscript is submitted.

Author ranking

- A researcher and a doctoral student can claim legitimate co-authorship if he/she has made an integrated, overarching and substantial contribution to at least two of the following three scientific research activities:
(i) design of the research; (ii) data collection/data analysis and (iii) writing of the manuscript.
- The first author should always be the person who has made the major contribution to finalising the paper.

- All other authors should generally be ranked in accordance with the general rules or customs of the specific discipline, unless the editorial board of a scientific journal explicitly has determined other rules for author ranking.
- The first author is generally the corresponding author, in certain circumstances another author can act as corresponding author if it is agreed upon with the other authors.
- Double co-authorships may occur under certain circumstances, and should be agreed upon with the other authors.

The publication process

- A specific agreement should be concluded on the criteria for first authorship and the ranking of co-authors very early on in the research process, and also on the tasks and activities required to meet the criteria for author- and co-authorship. Doctoral students are responsible for making sure that this agreement is brought up for discussion during meetings with supervisors.
- Decide on authorship and the ranking of the co-authors collectively and early on in the process.
- In case of disagreement or unclarity about authorships or ranking of authorships, the student should consult the director of studies at the department or faculty.
- The doctoral student has ownership of the author's rights if the authors include contributor(s) outside SLU. However, please note that an external contributor's employer may claim ownership if the author in question is the first author.
- All authors should be well informed - all correspondence about the article from the editor should be sent to each author. If time is limited, they should be informed of any changes that have been made.

Papers in the thesis and the role of the doctoral student

- It is recommended that the student is first author, or corresponding author, of at least two (or several) of the papers that make up their thesis. This recommendation is based on the wish to secure the possibilities for students to be involved in all steps of the publication process, and get the necessary experience of the publication process. This may not always be possible for a number of reasons.
- If, for any reason, the student does not appear as first author, corresponding author, or equivalent, on at least two papers in a compilation thesis, all supervisors must in writing clearly
 - explain why;
 - state that the student has made a significant scientific contribution to the papers included in the thesis, and clarify the student's role in the following three scientific research activities: (i) design of the research, (ii) data collection/data analysis and (iii) writing of the manuscript.