

Interactive comment on “Promoting interdisciplinary education – the Vienna Doctoral Programme on Water Resource Systems” by G. Blöschl et al.

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We are grateful for the comments and questions raised by the referee and address them in sequence:

1) A total of 23 students are enrolled in the Programme who are funded from a variety of sources. Six students are fully supported by the Austrian Science Fund, two students are supported by Vienna University of Technology, one is supported by the Schlumberger Foundation and the remainder are supported through other project related funds attached to the Faculty. The Austrian Science Fund supports programme

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activities, conference attendance, education training etc. for all students. When the Programme started, a total of nine positions were available (8 studentships and one post-doctoral position for the coordinator). These positions were filled following the recruitment processes described in the paper.

2) Supervisors and students work closely together during the first months of the doctorate to develop the student's research proposal. Each research topic is different and some students request more supervisor involvement than others. Supervisors are available for their students, yet encourage them to take ownership of their research and develop their own ideas and strategies for tackling the topic. This process help ensure that no student fails to produce a research proposal that is satisfactory. It is important to emphasise to all involved in the Programme that the process of putting together and defending a research proposal is intended to be constructive and enhance the quality of the students' own research.

3) For completion of the PhD, each student is expected to have a total of four papers either published or in the publication process. Students are encouraged to submit work throughout their doctorate and it is therefore expected that several papers will be published within four years of study. To take account of the sometimes long turn-around time of journals, the PhD can be awarded if one or two papers are submitted, and the rest accepted or published.

4) Approximately half of the PhD students enrolled in the Programme are able to designate 100 per cent of their time to their personal research and education. These students are expected to complete their PhD in four years. The other 50 per cent of students take part in university project work, are involved in teaching and some have research related administration responsibilities. These students are given a longer time frame to complete their PhDs (4-5 years).

5) We anticipate that almost all the students enrolled in the Programme will achieve their goal of earning a PhD. This is anticipated primarily because involvement in the

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Programme will provide students with a high level of support from the Faculty and their peer group. However, there is also a clearly defined exit route in case a student fails to meet the requirements.

6) This is not for us to judge but there are probably a number of factors contributing to the success of our recruitment drive (600 application for nine positions) as the reviewer is suggesting. We would think that advertisement was an important factor as the positions were advertised very widely (through different media from numerous disciplines) and internationally. A survey would be needed to get an objective assessment of the main factors.

Our responses to all the questions raised by the referee will be included in the revised manuscript.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 8, 9843, 2011.