

What is your situation?

Are you studying, applying for PhD.....

Have you already committed to a topic?

How did the coaching look like?

1) Did the coach provide you with an overview of different paths that you can take within your study discipline?

2) Did the coach (just) give you supporting materials for a topic that you already planned to do anyway?

3) Did the coach give you specific topic suggestions?

4) Did the coach help you with choosing a supervisor for your topic?

5) Did the coach take into account your career plans?

How did you come up with the topic you plan to do now?

on scale 1-10 how useful the coaching was to you?

---> probe "why 8/10 and not 6/10 or 10/10?"

what would you change to make the coaching more useful to you?

What were your expectations regarding coaching? How did you think it is going to look like? What did you think you will get from the coaching?

Did you think we will connect you with someone who will give you specific topic ideas? Or with someone who will help you develop your own idea you had in mind originally? Or with someone who will give you some broader overview of research subfields that you can look into?

On a scale 1-10, how high impact you think is the topic that you are working now?

--- what I mean is "out of all the topics that you could have chosen, how high impact is this one"?

-- problems with this question: one student told me he would always rate his topic as 9/10 because the topic that he is working on is the highest impact topic he is aware of. However, if he was aware of some even higher impact topic, he would switch to that topic and rate it again 9/10 (not 10/10 because "you never know"). The main problem in this is, that he might not be aware

of even higher impact topics ----- but if we compared it with all other topics in the universe, that would not be informative either - as one other student noted, even though the topic he is working on is contributing to make the world a better place, in comparison with all other things happening this will have very small impact (1/10) - also, world is complex and even if he chose the highest impact topic, it would only cause a small contribution, therefore 1/10
---> probe “why 8/10 and not 6/10 or 10/10?”

how likely were you to choose that high impact topic before you found Effective thesis?
---> probe “why 8/10 and not 6/10 or 10/10?”

--- the question is fed by two sources - 1) how high impact student thinks his topic is (see the previous question) and 2) the direct effect of Effective Thesis on one's decision making ----- for example students who eventually chose a low impact topic will give a high probability that they would choose such a topic without an effective thesis. While students who are working on a high impact topic could come up with this topic themselves or via Effective Thesis, and that effect may be greater. ----- The question is if this is a problem, because the Effective thesis is actually "giving students high impact topics," so when someone ends up with a low impact topic, it's actually Effective Thesis' loss regardless of whether we helped the student to choose the topic or whether student came up with the topic themselves

if you were to change something about the whole project/process, what would it be?

anything else what would help you?

On a scale 1-10, how much do you consider research as a career path for you?

---this question needs clarification - it might be understood as “out of all careers that you are considering, how many of them have heavy research component/are research-based”

--- it should NOT be understood as “how likely are you to succeed in pursuing research career” (because they just don't know and frankly, no one knows)

---would it be better if people understood it like “is at least one of the career options that you are considering research-based”?

--- I should probe more into how people get these questions, it still not clear how they think about it

----> the ultimate solution is to ask people this question and then ask them to explain why have they chosen the number they have chosen (why have you chosen 6/10 and not 8/10 or 4/10?)

→ qualitative answers are important

My [interviewer] final impression: