

Newsletter 2012/2013

12th of June, 2013

Words from the chair

Hi there, my name is Nils Rudqvist and I'm a PhD student at the Sahlgrenska Academy. I have been the chair of the Doctoral Committee at the University of Gothenburg (GUDK) since July 2012, and in June, I will leave this position for Johannes Daun, a PhD student at the Faculty of Arts.

It has been an exciting year for GUDK! We have been involved in several important tasks to ensure further safe, fair, and good PhD studies at the university. To be able to do this for you, we want to know what you care about so that we can focus on the right things! Our work is supported by the student unions. So please, if you are not already a member of a student union, please consider becoming one.

In this newsletter, you can find information about GUDK and of what we and the Faculty Doctoral Student associations have been doing the past year.

-Nils Rudqvist
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The coming year

The coming year, GUDK will work with these questions among others: 1) mentors for PhD students, 2) the right for a PhD student to be admitted to a doctoral degree, and 3) the forms of supervising. If you have any questions or if you want to participate in this interesting work please contact us.

What is GUDK?

The Doctoral Committee of University of Gothenburg (GUDK) is an association of PhD student representatives from each faculty. GUDK is a part of the University of Gothenburg Student Unions, which gathers all student unions at the university. Each Faculty Doctoral Student Association elects two persons to be a part of GUDK.

GUDKs purpose is to provide a platform for collaboration between PhD students at the university and to increase students' control over their learning and work situation, especially at the central level.

Please visit: www.gus.gu.se/om_gus/gudk/ for more information.

What has GUDK been doing for you?

Firstly, GUDK arranged a meeting with the university management. Among other things, we discussed how the assistance in choosing career path can be improved and we were also able to raise important questions regarding the courses in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (högskolepedagogik). This meeting was very fruitful and enabled GUDK to move forward with these questions.

We also had a visit from the University Career Service Center to better understand why PhD students are unhappy with information they receive about career paths. Our conclusion works better when located at each faculty.

GUDK has also worked on the revision of the rules for PhD studies. We have gathered the opinions from all faculties and also met with Hans Abenius, responsible for writing the new rules. This resulted in a real improvement for all PhD students.

Reports from the PhD Student Associations at each faculty

The School of Business, Economics and Law (Handelshögskolan)

We have observed and examined the reorganization of the departments, to see if this affects the PhD students. The high over-head costs which have made financiers turn down PhD student's applications have been discussed. We have also raised the question about international PhD students' stress levels.

-Kristoffer Collin

The Faculty of Science (Naturvetenskapliga fakulteten)

The Faculty of Science now have six departments. This requires harmonization of routines for e.g. teaching and lab-work and we are continually following this work. Also, stress among doctoral students as well as targeted career advice has been discussed.

-Anna Hedenrud

The IT Faculty (IT-fakulteten)

The doctoral student association at the IT-faculty are in the starting pit and will be up and running in a steady pace as soon as possible. We are looking for more members, so please contact us if you want to take part of this interesting work!

-Fahd Omair Zaffar

The Faculty of Social Sciences (Samhällsvetenskapliga fakulteten)

First, we have just collected and compiled a work environment survey. Second, we have raised the issue of language use at departments with many non-Swedish speaking students. Third, also encouraged by the dean, we are working to put forward a proposal for the financing of certain central expenses for PhD students.

-Patrik Vulkan

The Faculty of Arts (Humanistiska fakulteten)

This past year, we have followed and been engaged in the on-going restructuring of the language departments. From this year, the decision regarding admission to PhD studies is made at the department level. We will ensure that all departments behave equally and that the admission process is fair.

-Johannes Daun

The Faculty of Fine, Applied, and Performing Arts (Konstnärliga fakulteten)

The doctoral student association at the Faculty of Fine, Applied, and Performing Arts have during the past established an organisation that secures the influence of PhD students at the faculty. We are looking for more members, so don't hesitate to join us!

-Helena Kraff

The Faculty of Education (Utbildningsvetenskapliga fakulteten)

We have been working with a review of the PhD studies here. What level of courses can be utilized at PhD studies? How many mandatory course points are desirable? What courses should be mandatory and what is missing in the existing selection?

-Per Nordén

The Sahlgrenska Academy (Sahlgrenska akademien)

To ensure that our organization works well with the new organization at the university, the main focus has been to implement a PhD student organisation at all departments. We also pursue that each PhD student that wants to do educational work can do so and a bigger focus on internationalization of the PhD studies.

-Nils Rudqvist