

GUDK - The Doctoral Student Committee of the University of Gothenburg

Newsletter 2, 2019/2020: Internationalization

Words from the chairperson

This newsletter was planned and drafted in early spring, but not sent out due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It just did not feel right to push for internationalization when all travel was cancelled! It is now almost summer and vacation and my time as GUDK chairperson is ending. The Covid-19 pandemic is still not over and we will probably have to live with it for a long time. However, the pandemic has made it clear that internationalization does not always have to include physical mobility. This might actually be a good time to start building your international network and to consider the international aspects of your PhD education. I really hope you will find the information in this newsletter useful and I wish you all a restful and safe summer.

Malin Podlevskikh Carlström
GUDK chairperson 2019/2020

What is GUDK

[GUDK](#) is an association of PhD students from each faculty. GUDK is a part of the University of Gothenburg Student Unions (GUS), which gathers three out of four student unions at UGot. Each PhD council at faculty level elects two representatives (a regular and an alternate) for GUDK. GUDK's purpose is to provide a platform for collaboration between PhD students and to increase PhD students' control over their learning and work situation.

Interested in internationalization?

GUDK is often looking for PhD students to take part in university-wide working groups and boards. Please do not hesitate to contact us or GUS if you want to know more about currently open positions.

International Centre

The [International Centre](#) is a university-wide resource that works with international affairs and internationalization. The unit's responsibilities include initiating and maintaining international agreements for student exchanges and faculty and staff mobility, as well as coordinating the University's participation in international networks and projects. The webpage [Support for internationalization](#) links to all the information you might need about internationalization at the University of Gothenburg.

Internationalization, the PhD and beyond

Internationalization is a hot topic in higher education and many PhD students spend time abroad during their education. Experience has shown that international mobility and establishing international contacts during the PhD education period gives clear merits in postdoc and research applications and lends to a more flexible approach to where to look for employment after. Studies have shown that international experience leads to better research quality, too. The aim is therefore to increase the number of PhD students who take part in quality international mobility and activities. Your supervisors and your department are important resources. Talk to them about ways you can participate in and benefit from their international contacts and agreements, and discuss ways you could be included in and contribute to existing projects or project proposals. Usually, it is the principal supervisor who authorizes participation.

As a PhD student at the University of Gothenburg, you may have access to exchange agreements with partner universities globally. Furthermore, the university is part of a number of international networks and bilateral projects that include support for early-career researchers and PhD students. On the next page is a summary of the programs, networks and projects that are the most relevant for PhD students. See the International Centre's [webpage for PhDs](#) and feel free to [contact them](#) for more information, too.

We all need to work towards sustainable, environmentally-friendly internationalization. In October 2019, Vice-Chancellor Eva Wiberg signed [The Climate Framework](#). The student unions and GUDK strongly support this framework and consider it especially important to discuss internationalization in this context. We are encouraged to be more international and also to contribute to reducing carbon emissions. In order to achieve greener internationalization we need to give careful consideration to the benefits and necessity of our travels, and also let online seminars and meetings be a more natural part of our international experience.

International cooperation and exchange agreements

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ACCESS

[ACCESS](#) aims to establish relations between researchers, students and employees in Sweden and Chile. The project hosts an annual international research forum. With special attention to junior researchers, the project builds on relevant topics such as green growth, decarbonization, natural disasters, contemporary migration, global challenges for democracy, antibiotic resistance, cancer, aging and innovation.

Erasmus+

The [Erasmus+ program](#) has much to offer PhD students, who can benefit from both the staff and student opportunities in Erasmus program countries (EU/EEA+). Just some examples include taking classes or conducting data collection and thesis work at a partner university, teaching at a partner university, or gaining valuable knowledge and experience via a student traineeship or staff training (not necessarily at a partner). The minimum duration ranges from two days to three months, depending on the mobility type.

EUTOPIA

The University of Gothenburg is one of six European universities included in the EUTOPIA alliance. The aim of [EUTOPIA](#) is to create a strong alliance with free movement of students, researchers, teachers and other staff. The 2050 vision for EUTOPIA includes that students should be able to move easily and study at all the participating universities during their education, and within the same degree. In some cases, Erasmus funding may be available. [The EUTOPIA PhD co-tutelle program](#) will support high-quality PhD projects in all research areas co-supervised by academics of the EUTOPIA member universities. Possibilities for PhD-students will be pushed for [here](#).

MIRAI 2.0

[MIRAI](#), which is Japanese for future, is a cooperation project with focus on areas vital to the future: aging, sustainability and materials science and with an integrated innovation perspective. The project aims to develop and strengthen academic, interdisciplinary collaboration between Sweden and Japan by having early-career researchers meet in seminars and workshops. The MIRAI project (2017-2019) is finished and has transformed into MIRAI 2.0 (2020-2022) with ten Swedish and eight Japanese member universities and the University of Gothenburg as the coordinating university.

NIAS

[NIAS](#) is a Nordic research and service institute that aims to contribute to the development of Asian studies in the Nordic region. The [NIAS SUPRA](#) program offers multiple forms of research support, and is open to PhD students who reside and study in a Nordic country and whose project is related to Asian studies.

SASUF

[SASUF](#) is a bilateral collaboration project between 13 Swedish and 24 South African universities aiming to strengthen ties between South Africa and Sweden in research, education and innovation. The collaboration includes junior researchers among its target groups.

PhD exchange at UC Berkeley

The University of Gothenburg can recommend [the opportunity at the University of California, Berkeley](#) that allows PhD students who have been enrolled for one year to apply to be a Visiting Student Researcher at Berkeley for up to two terms.

SANORD

[SANORD](#) is a network between institutions in the Nordic countries and the Southern African region. The network aims to provide a platform for research, education and collaboration. Small research collaboration funds are announced annually. SANORD also provides [relevant links to education, research and funding opportunities for PhD students](#). SANORD organizes a yearly conference, alternating between the Nordic region and Southern Africa.

Scholars at risk (SAR)

[SAR](#) is not a regular program for exchange or cooperation. SAR is an international network that aims to protect academic freedom. With more than 500 members representing 40 countries, the network offers direct assistance to academics facing threats to their lives and is offering temporary positions to scholars at universities. The Swedish section has 20 member institutions and is coordinated from the University of Gothenburg.

SGroup

[SGroup](#) is a European network with more than 30 members from 17 different countries. The network aims to facilitate mobility between its member institutions, relevant announcements can be found on the website. Recently the network has identified doctoral education (exchange of experience and best practice) as a focus area.