



GÖTEBORGS
UNIVERSITET

GUDK Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Gothenburg University Doctoral Committee Issue 1, 2020-2021

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What is GUDK and GUS and what do we work with?

GUDK is an association of PhD student representatives from each faculty of the University of Gothenburg. GUDK is a part of the University of Gothenburg Student Unions (GUS), which gathers three out of four student unions at GU. Each PhD council at faculty level may elect two representatives (a regular and an alternate) for GUDK. GUDKs purpose is to provide a platform for collaboration between PhD students and to increase PhD students' control over their learning and work situation. GUDK focuses on the central level and on matters that are relevant for all PhD students at the University of Gothenburg.

Finally, GUDK works with an international perspective and all of our meetings are held in English. We generally strive towards convincing the university to have a more inclusive language policy, in which English is emphasized as a natural meeting language when international staff is present.

GUS - Gothenburg University Student Unions, is the overarching organizations that unites three out of four student unions at GU. This year GUS chairperson is Karl Kilbo Edlund and vice chairperson Julia Nyberg. GUS works together with GUDK to bring PhD issues to the University management! The current topics for GUS is to ensure good quality and a sufficient work environment during the pandemic, as the COVID-19 situation continues as does our involvement in the University's crisis management. The focus issue for GUS this year is course evaluations. The University is already working on developing the rules for course evaluations after getting criticism by the Swedish Higher Education Authority in 2019. This also applies PhD students as you also should be offered a course evaluation and get information about the results from their evaluation and the previous evaluation, including changes made because of it.

Prolongations for PhDs due to COVID-19

Doctoral students' education has been also affected by covid-19, therefore, to ensure the quality of education Committee for Third-Cycle Education strongly recommends prolongation of doctoral appointment for those who have been affected. These guidelines have been decided together with the Committee for Third-Cycle Education, which includes doctoral students as representatives. The guidelines have been approved by the Vice-Chancellor. The Committee would also like to underline the importance of continually updating the doctoral

student's individual study plan, so that all changes to the original plan are documented. Such documentation forms the basis for decisions on extension. Below you will find a form that can be used for applications for and decisions on special reasons for extension.

https://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/digitalAssets/1776/1776753_pm-special-reasons-extending-doctoral-appointments-covid-19-200601.pdf

https://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/digitalAssets/1774/1774983_blankett-f-rl-ngning-doktorandanst-lning.pdf



Please let us (and Doktorandombud) know if you face any difficulties in getting prolongations!



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The Unit for Academic Language

The Unit for Academic Language (ASK) offers doctoral students at the University of Gothenburg various resources for writing and language development. Our resources in both English and Swedish are provided to support doctoral students in their writing, reading, speaking, and teaching in an academic context. We offer Individual Advising Sessions for your research writing and presentations; Writing Workshops on how to approach the writing of an introduction, a literature review, a discussion section, etc.; Online Writing or Reading Circles (instead of our usual physical writing and reading retreats) where we offer participants a full day of structured individual writing or reading; Discussion Groups where participants practice speaking English or Swedish; and we offer help with forming and sustaining collegial Writing Groups. For your teaching, we offer a Webinar on referencing, Courses in English and Swedish as a Language of Instruction, and in the spring 2021, a seminar on Supporting Students' Writing for Academic Degrees. Our resources are provided online for the time being, with the exception of writing workshops which are held on campus (at The Faculty of Education). Find more information on all ASK's resources for doctoral students at <https://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/ask>

International centre

Your supervisors and your department are important resources when it comes to international experience during your PhD education. 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. See the International Centre's [webpage for PhDs](#) and feel free to [contact them](#) for more information.

Engage in South Africa Sweden University Forum

Are you interested in sustainability research and collaboration with South Africa? The SASUF community is committed to address the UN's sustainable development goals. In the week of 23-27 November SASUF will host a virtual conference with plenty of examples of joint research on sustainability issues. Registration opens 26th of October. Keep an eye on the [SASUF webpage](#) for news about the programme.

EUTOPIA

The University of Gothenburg together with five other European higher education institutions form the EUTOPIA network. The aim of the network is to prepare European students at all levels for the local and global challenges of the future by clearly including aspects of external co-operation, inclusion, international collaboration and sustainability in both education and research, so as to contribute to creating a new model for higher education in Europe. Read more about the different activities in the network [here](#).

The Grants and Innovation Office provides support to individual researchers, PhD students and research groups. We offer faculty-specific expertise and work together to combine a wide range of skills across research development, finance, contracts and innovation.

Utilization and innovation

Would you like to explore whether your research outputs or novel ideas could be applied outside of academia? We can give you input on your ideas, support you in developing them towards implementation, and help to present them in a professional way. Experience and knowledge in innovation and entrepreneurship will help you develop valuable skills, whether you are planning to continue doing research at the University or wish to pursue a career outside of academia.

Research funding

Our staff assist researchers and administrators with identifying, applying for, and coordinating external research funds. Our main target group is researchers from postdoc and upwards. We offer advice and support for proposal writing as well as ongoing project management.

Commercial law

The lawyers at the Grants and Innovation Office support the staff of the University with legal issues related to externally funded research and education. We offer support in drafting, examining and negotiating grant agreements, agreements for commissioned research or commissioned education, collaboration agreements and sponsorship agreements. Our staff also offers legal advice on issues related to utilization and intellectual property rights.

In short – we address your needs, take a holistic approach to your situation and involve different competences from our office to help you!

More information about our services is available at our [website](#).