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Hello all and welcome to a new academic year! I think we all hope that this year will be more normal than the one that just passed. A short introduction to those of you who have missed what GUDK is: GUDK is the Doctoral Student Committee of the University of Gothenburg. We consist of a presidium and faculty representatives from all faculties and many central committees and councils. Last year, we focused to a high degree on the pandemic and how it affected PhD students. We distributed a survey to all PhD students and the result was summarized in the report [One year into the pandemic](#). We will continue to monitor how applications for prolongations are handled and are happy to hear about how your prolongation was treated!

The new Aliens Act that came into force on 20 July caught many of us by surprise at the start of the semester. Compared to previous legislation, it is now harder for non-EU/EEA residents to get permanent residence after having finished their PhD education. To get more information about the subject I suggest you listen to [SULF's seminar](#) and then sign the [petition](#) that SFS-DK, ST¹ and SULF² has created. Note that the signature needs to be verified in an email later on! You can also send a pre-formulated email by SULF to a politician of your choice using [this link](#).

On a more positive note, SFS-DK, the national doctoral council, has just released a new PhD handbook! This contains basically all information that you need now (or will need in the future or wish you knew when you started...) as a PhD student in Sweden in all different stages of your studies. This is a splendid place to read up on your rights if you are uncertain, or just read up on how to defend your thesis when the time comes. You will find the webpage [here](#).

For all new (and old) international students, we'd also like to let you know about the guide that Welcome Services has put together for you. This guide lets you know what you need to do before arriving in Sweden, what to do once on site, how you live in Sweden (maybe also valuable for some Swedes...) and how to settle into the university. This is something that has been missing for a while and its release is greatly appreciated. You can find it [here](#).

Last, but not least, as I mentioned in the first paragraph one of the main tasks we have as a PhD student council is to represent students in different committees on central level. We are currently missing some representatives in three very important committees and boards - the [reference group for the ISP system](#), the [research board](#) and the [committee for PhD education](#). As a representative you prepare for, and attend, meetings where you give the PhD student perspective and opinion. You report back to GUS and GUDK and you will of course be compensated for the time you put in. Unfortunately, you will need to know Swedish well enough to follow a meeting in Swedish to become a representative in these groups.

¹ ST is the union for people employed by state agencies such as the University of Gothenburg

² SULF is [The Swedish Association of University Teachers and Researchers](#)

The Grants- and Innovation Office (FIK) assists researchers, doctoral students, teachers, department administrators and managers with issues related to research funding, business law, innovation, and the utilization of research. Our support for doctoral students: We offer individual guidance and coaching in regard to utilization of research. Either through collaborations, social innovations, commercialization, or any other relevant form. You do not need to have an idea already. It is enough that you have an ambition to work with utilization of your research!

Requirements are:

- An ambition for utilization, and/or
- Knowledge assets based on your research/ experiences at the University of Gothenburg, and/or
- An idea based on your research/experiences at the University of Gothenburg

It is an excellent way for you to gain perspectives on what opportunities there are after your dissertation or the impact you can make during your studies.

Utilization Peer Community

Are you, your colleagues or fellow PhD students curious about how others have worked with utilization? Join our lunch seminars this fall! Each session will host a researcher who presents their experiences of utilization. For example, the themes for spring 2021 were collaboration/co-creation, social innovation, and startups. The seminars are held in English.

For 10 minutes, a researcher presents how they have worked with utilization from different perspectives. This is followed by an open moderated discussion. Brew a cup of tea and grab some lunch!

Dates & times (subject to change):

- Friday 22nd October: Christopher Jacklin, Being a student in a research utilization/innovation project. (12.10 - 12.50)
- Friday 26th November: Johan Hogmalm, From basic research to founding a company. (12.10 - 12.50)
- Friday 17th December: Robert Lowe, Company, Student & Research partnership for utilization. (12.10 - 12.50)

Themes are still to be decided, stay tuned!

FIK Seminars:

The Grants- and Innovation Office (FIK) also offers open seminars on research funding, agreements, application tips, and much more. Keep track of the University of Gothenburg's calendar!

How to get in touch with us and sign up for the lunch

seminars: Contact daniel.brandt@gu.se and he will book a meeting and discuss how you can move forward with their utilization ideas.

The Unit for Academic Language (ASK) provides various resources in both English and Swedish to support doctoral students in their writing, reading, speaking, and teaching in an academic context:

- 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 Retreats where participants are guided through a full day of structured individual writing or reading,
- Discussion Groups where participants practice speaking English or Swedish, and
- Writing Groups where participants receive help with forming and sustaining collegial groups centered on writing alongside peers.

For your teaching, The Unit for Academic Language offers

- Courses in English and Swedish as a Language of Instruction,
- a Webinar Series on Referencing, and
- a Seminar Series on Pedagogical Support for Students' Writing and Thesis Work.

These resources are provided online for the time being. Find more information on all resources The Unit for Academic Language offers at

<https://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/ask>

The International Centre wants to let you know what they can do for you. There are several opportunities for you as a PhD student to gain valuable experience, build your network, and develop skills for the future. These range from Erasmus+ financing shorter (2- or 5-day minimum) to longer (up to 12 months) training, teaching, or study or traineeship opportunities; to activities for PhD students and early-career PhDs in the European University [EUTOPIA alliance](#); to presentation, participation, and networking in international networks like MIRAI 2.0 (Sweden-Japan) and SANORD (Southern African-Nordic), to name just a couple. Learn more about these opportunities and more under "Resources for me" on the International Centre's [website](#).

That's it for now! The next newsletter will be out in the beginning of Spring 2022. If you have any questions before then or wish for me to include anything in the coming newsletter, send me an email!

Best wishes,
Veronica