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Hi again everyone! I hoped that I wouldn't have to address *the situation* again after the last newsletter, but here's a reminder to stay up to date on the latest [covid-19 information from the university](#). When writing this, the latest information is that the instruction to work from home is lifted February 15th and that the return is to be done in an orderly fashion. The return to work is to be completely by March 31st. But as we all know by now, these things can change quickly, so stay up to date!

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the adjustments in the Aliens Act came as a surprise to us when returning to work after the summer vacation. GUDK has worked with raising the awareness of the new legislation and how it affects the academic landscape in Sweden. The vice-chancellor has criticized it in [her blog](#), and we have distributed a survey from SFS-DK¹ and SULF² where they map the academic environment in general and for foreign students and young researchers in particular.

Moreover, we are planning a manifestation together with Chalmers against the new Aliens Act 26th of February 12.00-13.00. More information will [here!](#)



Especially new PhD students have a huge need for a PhD handbook, but also the doctorals that have been around for a while need refreshing of knowledge. Lucky for us, SFS-DK has launched a new [PhD handbook](#). The webpage contains a handbook with information on everyday stuff that can be useful like courses, prolongation, teaching and departmental duties, the individual study plan (and so much more). It also has information about rights, laws and regulations as a PhD student as well as information about the admissions process. This is a great first place to turn to if you are in doubt about anything, really.

On the next page you'll find some information on what ASK and the International Center has to offer this semester. And some final words from me!

¹ [SFS-DK](#) is the doctoral council for Sweden where representatives from universities around the nation meet up and discuss matters on a national level

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

The Unit for Academic Language

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.,
- **Writing or Reading Retreats** where participants are guided through a full day of structured individual writing or reading,
- **Conversation 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**, and
- **A Seminar Series on Pedagogical Support for Students' Writing and Thesis Work**.

Find more information on all resources The Unit for Academic Language offers at <https://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/ask>

The International Centre invites you to take part in several opportunities for PhD students, 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 and PhD courses, for example in [ACCESS](#) (Chile-Sweden) and SWETALY (Sweden-Italy) to name just a couple. Learn more about these opportunities and others under [“Resources for me”](#) on the International Centre's website.

Present your thesis in 3 minutes - sign up for the 3MT (3 Minute Thesis) competition at the Science Festival

Do you wish your research could reach a larger audience?

Here is a chance to give an “elevator pitch” of your thesis at the Science Festival. You will compete against other doctoral students at University of Gothenburg, in accordance with the successful 3MT concept developed by the University of Queensland.

First prize is a trip to South Africa to represent the University of Gothenburg in a 3MT competition.

More information at [medarbetarportalen](https://medarbetarportalen.gu.se).

For those of you who wish to become representatives in central boards and committees, we have some openings!

The Research Board needs an additional representative to the two that are already there. **The Committee for PhD Education** also needs another representative to join the two that are already there. Both positions give 10 days of prolongation and consist of approximately four-six meetings per semester.

We also need representation in **The International Council** and the **ISP Reference Group**. Representatives in this groups meet for approximately two meetings of two hours per semester.

Email me at ordf.gudk@gus.gu.se if you are interested or want more information before signing up for something!

... and remember that you can always reach out to your faculty representative if you wish to learn more about the PhD council work at your faculty or department.

Best wishes,
Veronica