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Hi all and welcome to a new academic year.

We all know that returning to school after a summer is more of a new start than New Year's eve on December 31<sup>st</sup> could ever be. GUDK's resolution for this academic year is to get more of you interested in becoming student representatives on the central level. We will therefore start this letter off with a description on the work conducted in the committee for third cycle education as told from one of the representatives.

[The committee for third cycle education](#) handles all things related to our education, really. The committee consists of representatives that are in charge of the PhD education at their respective faculty as well as representatives from the library and PIL. This generally means a pro-dean, and always means someone who has in-depth knowledge of the doctoral education as well as the intention of improving the situation for us as doctoral students. The committee deals with issues that arise (such as the lack of available positions in the English speaking version of PIL101), new initiatives that have worked well at some faculties and might be worth implementing elsewhere (like the FIK course NFNF304 on Research Innovation and Utilization held at the Science faculty), and results of surveys concerning PhD students (like the ARK survey from this spring). Being a student representative in this committee for the past few years has taught me a lot about how the university works and what we can do to actually change things that aren't working properly. And this is what it generally means to be a student representative – you will get more insight on how things work at the University.

If you wish to get involved as well and feel like the research part of your employment is what *really* gets you going, then I'd recommend you to join [the Research Board](#). This is one of the most important boards to us PhD students, and if you were to join, you'll be one of three possible representatives where you help each other out. Other positions that are of interest to PhD students include:

- [Staff Portal Project](#)
- Reference group for FUBAS
- Reference group for ISP
- EUTOPIA reference group

You will get prolongation to your PhD employment in accordance with the [Rules and regulations for third-cycle studies](#). If you have any questions, please send us an [email](#)!

Being a doctoral student is hard, but for some students, the biggest hardship of their PhD is coming to Sweden and getting a life going here. Getting an ID, getting a bank account, getting housing and being in contact with the migration office has proven to be a few very of many tough things to tackle. It is easy to get caught in the middle of different organizations' administrations and be left suffering. In GUDK, we are currently collecting some reports from students that have been through hardship when coming to Sweden. If you wish to share, we want to hear it! Please [email](#) us your story and we'll include it in the collated version that we are working with to bring forth in all appropriate channels.

In the meanwhile, if you are caught up in something that you need help untangling or understanding I would recommend you looking at the [PhD handbook](#) that SFS-DK has created. This site is a great compliment to the GU [doctoral rules](#) (that have been updated quite recently!) which hold a lot of information on your rights as a PhD student and are good to turn to when in doubt. If you still feel like you don't know where to turn, a marvelous resource is our [student ombudsmen](#). They have great knowledge of everything student related (and I mean everything – harassment, discrimination, mental health, conflicts at the workplace) and if they don't know the answer to your questions, odds are they will know where you should turn instead!



## UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Now, information from other areas of the university:

### International Centre

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. 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 variety of international networks and bilateral projects that include support for early-career researchers and PhD students. Learn more at [the International Centre's website](#); see especially under "Resources for me".

### Collaboration with South Africa and Chile

Are you interested in sustainability research and/or collaboration with South Africa or Chile? Calls for participation in Spring 2024 events in the networks [SASUF](#) (South Africa) and [ACCESS](#) (Chile) are now open and especially welcome PhD-students to apply! Focus areas are selected UN's sustainable development goals. Follow the links given above to read more about these networks and find the event applications.

### EUTOPIA

The University of Gothenburg together with nine other European higher education institutions form the [EUTOPIA alliance](#). The alliance and its member universities periodically offer activities for PhD students, such as research collaborations and short courses. Read more about the alliance and its activities and consider [signing up for the EUTOPIA newsletter](#) to keep up to date with the latest opportunities.

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### 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, and speaking 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,
- **The Writing Room** which is a meeting place open every Friday morning on Zoom for all staff who want to write more effectively,
- **Writing Groups** where participants receive help with forming and sustaining collegial groups centered on writing alongside peers, and
- **Conversation Groups** where participants practice speaking English or Swedish.

For staff who teach and supervise students, ASK offers language and writing development resources in Swedish and English:

- seminars on various elements of academic writing and reading, and
- professional development in English or Swedish as Language of Instruction.

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

## **Grants and innovations office**

Do you have a business idea you want to realize? Submit your idea into Venture Cups competition IDEA. There, you'll get valuable feedback, opportunities for networking with interesting profiles from the business industry and your idea has the chance to be titled as one of Sweden's 20 best business ideas. What are you waiting for? The competition is open between 4<sup>th</sup> of September and 8<sup>th</sup> of November with two deadline dates. 23<sup>rd</sup> of October if you want guaranteed feedback on your business idea and 8<sup>th</sup> of November the competition closes. Find more information about how you compete via the link below.



## **When should I contact an innovation advisor?**

The Grants and Innovation Office at the University of Gothenburg provides support mainly to researchers and doctoral students. We have funding, up to SEK 300.000, that you can apply for and innovation advisors who can support you...

...When you want to collaborate with someone outside the university, for example in the public

sector, in civil society or a company, to see if you can utilize your research to have an impact.

...When you have a concept, an idea for a project, or for a solution that you think may be relevant outside the university, which you would like to explore further.

...When you want to contribute to society in a more active way and want to learn more about your opportunities to do so.

...When you want to get relevant feedback from external people on your project or idea.

We tailor our support to your needs and all our help is free of charge.

Book a meeting with us and we'll see how we can best help you!

Website: [medarbetarportalen.gu.se/fik](https://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/fik)

Contact: [camilla.pettersson@gu.se](mailto:camilla.pettersson@gu.se)

If you want to know more about the support and financing that you can get from us, sign up for our upcoming lunch seminar!

## **Do you want your research to make a difference in society?**

Have you thought about how your research can make a difference? Would you like to understand how you could develop your research to reach your goals? At the Innovation Office you can get up to 300 000 SEK, tools and coaching to test and verify what impact your idea and research could have outside academia, beyond the research community.

Do you want to know how? On the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, the Grants and Innovation Office will hold a lunch seminar where we will provide you with information about [our VFT funding](#), what you can do with it, and how you apply for it, ending with a Q&A.

Take the opportunity to learn more about how you can make an impact outside academia!

**Time:** 12.00 – 13.00

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> November

**Where:** Zoom (link will be provided upon registration)

**Registration:** Registration open until 15<sup>th</sup> November. [Registration here.](#)

**Target group:** Researchers and students from all faculties are welcome to join the seminar.