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Hi all and welcome to the spring semester! We hope that your academic journey develops smoothly!

## What is GUDK

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), and each PhD council organization at the faculty level may elect two representatives (a regular and an alternate) for GUDK representation. 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. GUDK focuses on the matters that are central and relevant for all PhD students at the University of Gothenburg.

The presidium of GUDK is elected annually and consequently, the roles of chair, vice chair, and secretary will be up for election. You can nominate yourself or someone from your faculty who is interested in taking part and contributing to GUDK's work! The role descriptions can be found in the following [link](#). Nominations are made to the current chair.

## Debate on "Duty to Inform".

We would like to raise your awareness about the ongoing debate regarding the government's investigative directive to introduce a reporting obligation ("duty to inform") for public sector employees when it comes to so-called undocumented individuals.

The majority of doctoral students in the Ämnesgruppen för doktorander at SOCAV have chosen to initiate a petition opposing the so-called "duty to inform" or Informationsplikt. They invite you to read the statement and sign it. [Here](#) is the link to the statement and petition.

## Finding Support: Dealing with Harassment and Mistreatment

We would like to increase your understanding of the process for reporting deviations from the local study regulations and doctoral study rules at Gothenburg University.

The key principles include submitting complaints to the relevant institution, prompt investigation, and documented decisions. If dissatisfied, students can escalate complaints to the faculty level and, if necessary, to higher authorities such as the University Chancellor's Office (UKÄ) or the Ombudsman for Justice (JO).

Relevant information can be found, unfortunately there are available only in Swedish, at this [link](#). If you need help with translation, you can reach out to GUDK or to the [ombudsmen](#).

## Salary Steps Information

Have questions about the 50% and 80% salary steps and the ways to achieve them in your doctoral journey? Generally, the 50% salary step is reached as you have had your half-time seminar or a licentiate defence. This should be at half time (2 years if you don't have any departmental duties, 2.5 years if you do the full 20% departmental duties). The 80% is less rigid but approximately one year before the defence should take place or as soon as you start planning for the defence is a good aim. These timelines are collaboratively decided upon with your supervisor and examiner. If you ever feel that you are lagging, we encourage you to document such concerns in your Individual Study Plan (ISP) where your progress is tracked.

Additionally, if you sense any oversight from your supervisor or examiner, **don't hesitate to gently remind them!**

You can find relevant information at the [Doctoral rules](#).



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

## Report Your Prolongation Days

To ensure that you don't miss out on the prolongation days your departmental duties grant you, we remind you to take a moment to register your prolongation days at least once a year.

Now, information from other areas of the university:

## International Centre

The International Centre offers opportunities and support for you as a doctoral student to gain valuable experience abroad, build your international network, and develop skills. As a doctoral 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 Chile, China and South Korea

Would you like to learn together with Chilean PhD students? Apply to courses within [ACCESS](#)! Selected UN sustainable development goals are the focus.

Interested in China? Apply for funds to arrange a research seminar, workshop, or course in Shanghai, connected to at least one of the [interdisciplinary thematic focus areas](#) within [Nordic Centre Fudan](#).

Want to develop your career and collaborate with elite South Korean universities? Apply to participate in *Future Laureates Societal Challenges Programme*, a 2 ½ year interdisciplinary career development programme within [SKERIC](#). Call opens March 22. More information coming soon to the Staff Portal.

Find out more about these networks and get the application forms at the links above.

## 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 doctoral students and early career researchers, such as research collaborations and short courses. Signing up for the [EUTOPIA newsletter](#) is a great way learn more about the alliance and to keep up with the latest opportunities.

## 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, or the doctoral compilation thesis,
- **Writing or Reading Retreats** where participants are guided through a full day of structured individual writing or reading,
- **The Writing Room** which is a digital 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 [here](#).

## Grants and innovations office

Collaboration funding call:

### **Academy and Society, 2024**

Are you interested in establishing a collaborative project with partners outside of academia? This initiative represents a unique opportunity for our research and teaching staff, including **doctoral students**, to explore and establish new collaborations with non-academic partners. The program is designed to provide need-driven funding to support initiatives that enable practical application and benefit of research in society.

**Application deadline:** 27 March, 2024, at 14:00. More info [here](#)!

### **Funding and support for testing your ideas**

Are you curious about how you can **apply your research results outside the university**? Or do you want help to test and verify an idea? Read more about our Verification for Utilization (VFT) funding [here](#). Send in an interest form or contact an [innovation advisor](#) if you want to discuss what opportunities you have for utilization and collaboration.

### **IP policy and researchers' rights to project results**

Last year, the university adopted its new policy on intellectual property rights. It describes the university's application of the 'teacher's exemption' and **the rights and obligations of researchers in relation to intellectual property rights**. You can find the policy [here](#), and [here](#) is some more info about how to implement the IP policy as an FAQ. If you have more questions about who has the rights

to exploit research results, contact the [Grants and Innovation Office](#)!

## Welcome Services

Welcome Services offers support to international PhD students and researchers. They also arrange information sessions, workshops, and social activities, aiming to help you navigate your academic and personal journey while at GU.

Explore the exciting activities lined up for this spring:

Monthly: **International Café**, which is an opportunity to connect with researchers from Chalmers University of Technology and the University of Gothenburg in a relaxed setting.

Dates: 8th April, 6th May. Time: 17:00 – 19:00. No registration needed. More information here:

<https://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/gast/Calendar/>

Webinar: **Rethinking productivity**  
Learn to see productivity through a well-being lens. Learn how to structure your day in a way that aids your concentration and focus, rather than constantly detracting from it. We'll discuss how to create a routine during times of constant change, learning to ride the productivity wave, creating a rhythm that works for you, navigating the balancing act of families and research, and how to plan to be (realistically) productive.  
Date: Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April. Time: 11:00-12:30.  
For details and registration, contact [welcomeservices@gu.se](mailto:welcomeservices@gu.se).

Workshop: **Doctoral writing and well-being: how to make the writing process more manageable and rewarding.**

Hosted by the Unit for Academic Language (ASK). During the webinar, we will discuss academic writing in connection to emotions that may surface during the ups and downs of the writing process on the way to the finished written product, and theories on how to minimize negative emotions in doctoral writing will be provided.  
Date: Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Time 14:00-17:00.  
For details and registration, contact [welcomeservices@gu.se](mailto:welcomeservices@gu.se).

We hope to see you at these events, where not only will you gain valuable insights but also the opportunity to meet and connect with fellow PhD students.