

# PhD News

1/2011

Dear all,

As you will see from this number of PhD News there are several interesting activities going on this spring. The Association of Doctoral Organization in Norway is arranging a hot-topic seminar about "Life after PhD". In Norway in 2011 the number of new doctorates is 1184. About 20% of these will have an academic career. It is therefore important to arrange career support for doctoral candidates preparing for a wider job market. We will therefore have a discussion how to formalise this institutional responsibility. The role of the supervisors, departments and faculties in this matter must be clarified.

Talking about supervisors, UiB intends to look at the training of supervisors. Does UiB have an optimal supervisor training? Which competences are necessary to be a good supervisor? Looking at other universities we find different ways to organise supervisor training. We now want to go through different programmes and find the best way for UiB. We think the supervisor and doctoral candidate relationship is crucial to foster good doctoral candidates. We also think that both un-experienced and well experienced supervisors will benefit from discussing and reflecting over supervisors practices. In addition there exists a lot of formal information that is important to know as a supervisor.

Another important issue for this spring is the evaluation of the organisation of the different research schools at UiB. UiB now has over 20 research schools. Their organisation varies due to different research traditions and based on whether they are national, regional or local research schools.

Important actions to follow up this spring is hence: focusing on career support for doctoral candidates, evaluation of research schools and their organisation, in addition to the strengthening of supervision training and a revision and update the UiB's PhD handbook.



Berit Rokne  
Deputy Rector

## ETHICS FOR BREAKFAST

**When conditions in research changes. Redelighetsutvalget (the standing committee on ethics) at The University of Bergen invites to a morning ethics meeting with breakfast included!**

**Time:** Tuesday 15 March 2011, 0800-1000

**Place:** The Student Centre Auditorium ("Egget")  
The seminar is held in Norwegian.

Click [here](#) for more information and for registration.



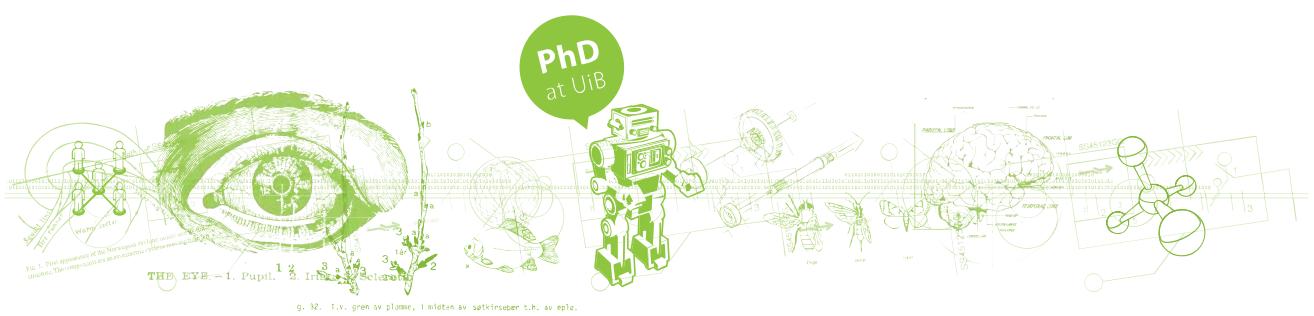
## Health and Human Rights summer school

**Summer School on Health and Human Rights, University of Geneva, 29 Aug - 3 Sept 2011**



The University of Geneva has organised, with support from the ACP Task Force of the Coimbra Group, a Summer School on **Health and Human Rights** to take place from 29 August to 3 September 2011. The Summer School is open to 20 Master and Ph.D. students from Coimbra Group Universities. Priority will be given to African citizens studying at Coimbra Group Universities.

Deadline for applications: **31 March 2011**  
More information found [here](#).



## Evaluation of research schools at UiB

The University has established a work group with representatives from all faculties to evaluate the organization of research schools at The University of Bergen.

Research schools have been part of the organization of doctoral education since 2002 at UiB. The work group has been asked to conduct an evaluation of the research schools organization and the quality criteria for the research schools. These days the research schools leaders and all faculties and departments are asked to fill out an evaluation form and comment upon the quality criteria.

An open meeting for discussion and debate upon the quality criteria of research schools will be organized the 12 April 11-13 at the Student centre in the auditorium "Egget". Final program for the meeting will be announced later. The work group has to turn in their final report by the 1 June 2011.

## SiN seminar



SiN organizes a seminar about *Life after PhD* in Bergen 7 March. The seminar is in Norwegian and the program is found [here](#).

SiN, Association of Doctoral Organizations in Norway, is a constellation of local organizations for PhD candidates and post doctors at Norwegian colleges and universities.

SiN is a network promoting contacts between its member organizations and expressing joint opinions on political issues concerning education and research, and other issues relevant to the member organizations.

## JOIMAN

The EU project on management and administration of joint programmes is finished and the [Good practice report on joint doctorates](#) is available on the Joiman website.

For more information on UiBs part in the project.

## Fourth EUA - CDE Annual Meeting: Call for papers!

The fourth annual EUA-CDE meeting *Promoting creativity – Cultivating the Research Mindset* will be held 9-10 June 2011 and is hosted by Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain.

The Annual Meeting of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education is the largest gathering of stakeholders in the field of doctoral education in Europe. It presents thought-provoking ideas, illustrative case studies and debates on relevant topics in the field, bringing together university leaders, researchers, political actors, funding organisations, quality assurance agencies and all others interested in the development of doctoral education.

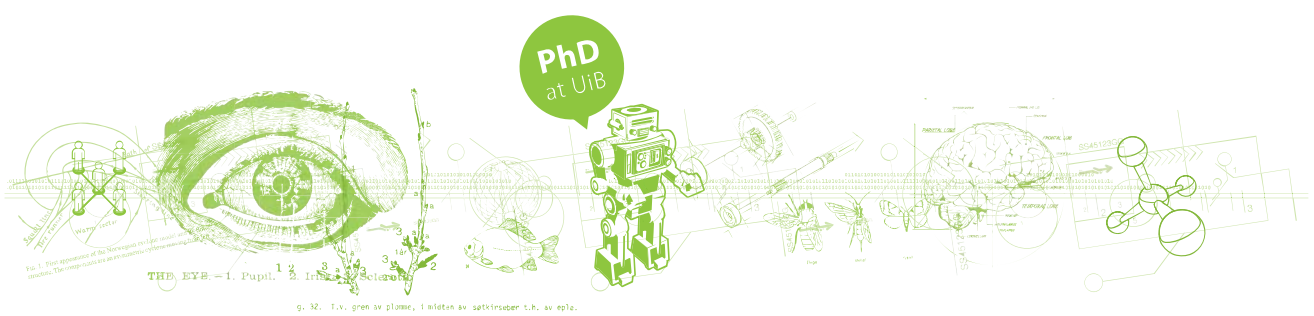
The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will focus on ways of providing structured doctoral education that promote creativity, individual autonomy and critical thinking. It will explore the tension that can arise from taking institutional responsibility for doctoral education while simultaneously trying to ensure that doctoral candidates develop a creative edge, independence and the ability to manage their own research and careers. Call for papers on the topic for the meeting, deadline 4 April. Contact [joanne.byrne@eua.be](mailto:joanne.byrne@eua.be) More info [here](#).

## ORPHEUS

Organization for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System invites you to the the 6<sup>th</sup> ORPHEUS conference in Izmir 27-30 April.

*PhD Quality Indicators for Biomedicine and Health Sciences* is this years topic and experts from major European and world organisations and institutions working on PhD education in biomedicine and health sciences will provide information, moderate discussion panels, and chair workshops to elaborate on the topic. The ORPHEUS conferences always end up in a consensus document. All previous consensus documents may be found [here](#). More information about the conference is available [here](#).

The 2012 ORPHEUS conference will be held in Bergen with The University of Bergen as host.



## Record UiB number of new doctorates in 2010

**237 doctoral theses were presented at the University of Bergen during 2010 - 111 of them during the last half of 2010. This is a new record and 14 more than last year, when there were 223 doctorate candidates.**

With 237 doctor's degree candidates in 2010, the UiB is not far from achieving its goal of 250 disputations per year. Rector Sigmund Grønmo emphasized in his speech to the candidates in the formal doctoral presentation ceremony that "international mobility and recruitment of students and scholars across national borders are heavily emphasized". This diversity is shown in the fact that 70 of the new doctorates are foreign candidates from 40 different countries all over the world. Grønmo states that the "diversity within the university is an important indicator of academic quality – especially for international research universities".



Photo: Bjørn Erik Larsen

The national numbers for doctoral education is 1184 new doctorates in 2010, but it still does not beat the high rate year of 2008 when Norway had 1245 new doctorates. The growth of new doctorates is mainly within medicine and health. The amount of women completing a PhD degree is increasing and was on a national total of 46% in 2010.

For more information on statistics on doctoral education in Norway check out the website of Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education [here](#). Statistics are mostly in Norwegian, but they have several publications in English.

## Progress report in doctoral education 2010

**1131 PhD candidates turned in their progress report in November 2010.**

The reports from the PhD candidates and the supervisors are in these days being revised and read in all departments by the responsible persons for doctoral education. All reports are followed up by the departments, and in particular the ones who have reported they might be delayed and would need some extra support in order to get back on track again. Due to the new report tool, the departments and the faculties now have the possibility to have a structural overview of the progress of the candidates, and will plan their follow up routines accordingly.

## Need funding?

**WUN Research Mobility Programme (RMP) promotes exchange of researchers and research fellows between the WUN universities.**

UiB is member of [Worldwide Universities Network \(WUN\)](#) since 2004. WUN is a global alliance of 16 research universities aiming at strengthening research and doctoral cooperation between the member universities. UiB prioritises research fellows (phd) for WUN RMP awards. If an application for a RMP award is approved, the awardee will receive a monthly scholarship and have the travel costs covered from Bergen to the WUN host university and return. RMP awards can be granted for 1-6 months research stays abroad. For more information about the WUN Research Mobility programme at UiB and how to apply, please contact [UiB WUN Contact Point](#)

## NordForsk Researcher Networks for joint research

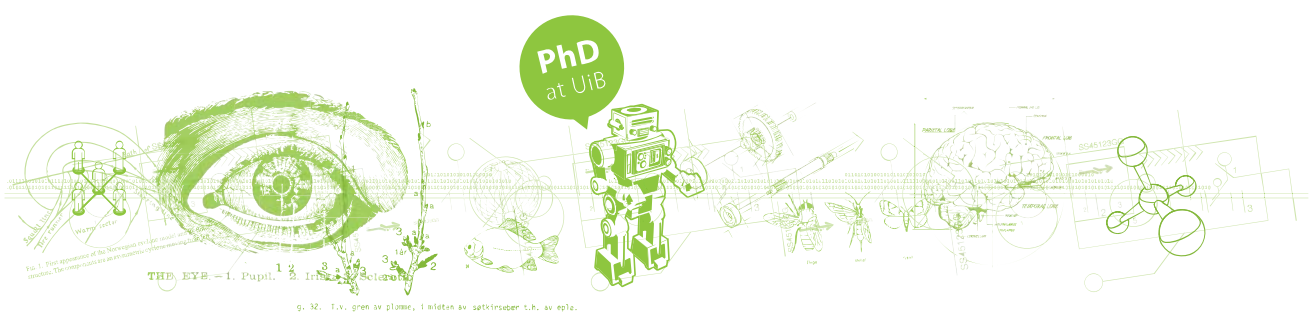
PhD students and young researchers must participate actively in the network. NordForsk encourages research cooperation between the Nordic and Baltic countries in the networks within all fields of research, applicants are particularly encouraged to collaborate on:

- Joint Nordic use of Research Infrastructure.
- Nordic Culture, Languages and inter-Nordic Communication
- Research on Nordic Cooperation

Find detailed information [here](#).

Deadline for pre-proposals: **April 6, 2011**





## Career opportunities for researchers

Higher Education Institutions in Norway will develop a system to promote researchers' career opportunities. British Vitae, which has worked with the researchers' career development for many years, shared their experiences as the sector met for discussion at the seminar "How to attract and retain excellent researchers" on the 19th January.

The seminar, organized by the Research Council of Norway and the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions, was a follow-up of higher education institutions working with the Charter and Code - The European Commission's recommendations on the responsibilities and obligations of researchers, employers and funders with regard to recruitment, working conditions and career planning. Charter and Code principles are generally well taken care of in Norway through the Norwegian legislation, but there is potential for improvement particularly in the development of researcher careers. Read the full article [here](#).

## Norwegian language course for employees

All employees at the University of Bergen, and their partners have right to a Norwegian Language course at any level. This also includes doctoral candidates. [Course description for Norwegian language courses and Application form](#)

For more information, please [contact](#) The Department of Human Resources (POA)

## Annual PhD administrative seminar

The annual seminar on research education and administration will this year be hosted by The University of Bergen and held in Bergen the **19 and 20 May**.

This event is a must for everybody working administratively in relation to research education, and last years event was a huge success. For more information on program and registration read [here](#).

## Welcome to all new PhD candidates



A welcome folder for all new PhD candidates has been created in order to help all new candidates with all the useful information they need throughout their doctoral education.

The welcome folders are available at the faculties which will add useful information from each faculty to the folders. The folder consists of a to-do list which can be useful the first weeks for a fresh PhD candidate. When receiving the new folder the PhD candidate will also be given the name of their own PhD coordinator or the administrative contact person the PhD candidate can go to for all kinds of non-scientific questions.

