

Dear all,

We can look forward to more information about PhD education in Norway and University of Bergen this spring. Based on changes in PhD education in Norway with respect to types of program and degrees, the number of candidates enrolled and graduates produced, funding of PhD education and organizational innovations with respect to structure, content and organization, the Norwegian Research Council is performing a national evaluation of the PhD education. The overall aim of the evaluation is to shed light on the following issues: 1) Quality – with regard to whether Norwegian doctoral training keeps high international standards. 2) Efficiency – with regard to whether Norwegian doctoral training is adequately organized and the extent to which resources are used efficiently. 3) Relevance – with regard to whether society receives appropriate and necessary competence.

At the same time University of Bergen has engaged DAMWAD to perform a study to get more information about the relevance and visibility of the PhD program at University of Bergen in relation to labour market. PhD candidates from 2005-2010 and different companies/institutions have been invited to participate in the study. We are very much looking forward to the results from both studies. It is important for University of Bergen to continuously improve the quality of the PhD education.

Further in this number of PhD news you will find information about Bergen PhD Summer School 2012. Even if this year's arrangement is somewhat different compared to previous years we are sure that it will be an important meeting place for PhD students.

Another important event this spring is the arrangement of the ORPHEUS conference with focus on PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System. For University of Bergen internationalization in PhD education is important.

As you all understand from this number of PhD News, PhD education is under continuous development and discussion and that is good.



Berit Rokne
Deputy Rector

Bergen PhD Summer School 2012

The Bergen Summer Research School (BSRS) is an initiative of the Bergen academic milieu's commitment to produce and disseminate research-based education related to some key **global challenges** posed by an increasingly knowledge-based, complex, multicultural, religiously diverse, and unequal society. The BSRS has completed its first phase of four years dedicated to the following themes:

2008: Global Poverty

2009: Climate, Environment, and Energy

2010: Global Health in Bio-medical, Social and Cultural Perspectives

2011: Norms, values, language, culture

These four broad areas of research are intrinsically interrelated, but they have also been identified as dominant themes in separate BSRS. Several courses, on a PhD level, were offered each year and were related to the theme of the year. For more information, please visit our website www.bsrs.no.

In June 2012 instead of the ordinary BSRS there will be a PhD conference on **Transnational Migration and Global Development**. During 20-22 June 2012 the University of Bergen will organize this conference on BSRS-related themes. The conference focuses on four interdisciplinary themes that may be reached from a range of different disciplines and geographical departures:

1. Political Mobilization and Collective Action
2. Segregated Zones of Living: Refugee Camps, Asylum Centres, Ghettos
3. Rhetoric of Exclusion
4. Precarious Lives: The Law of States versus the Law of Peoples.

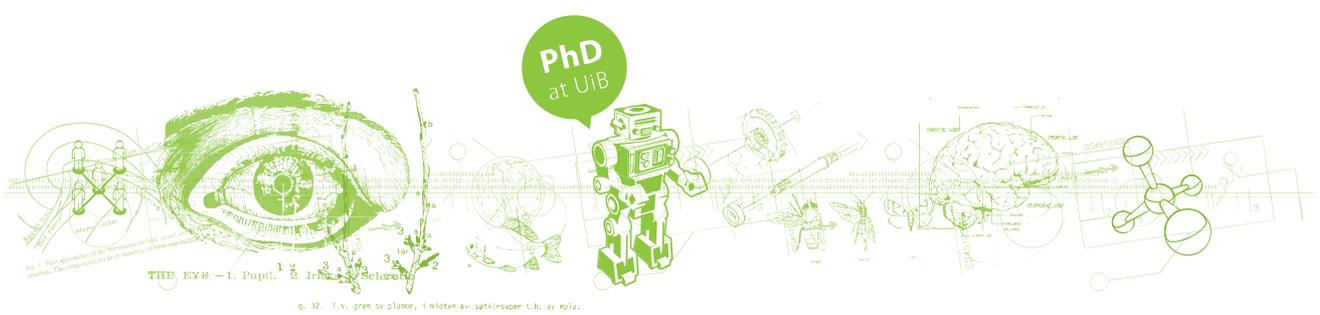


European Summer Schools

The Coimbra Group (CG) offers Summer Schools and seminar in different fields in many European countries. For more information:

<http://coimbra-group.eu/index.php?page=summer-schools-seminars>

Information on possibilities for Scholarship Programmes can also be found at this site.



Results from the Progress Report 2011

The annual progress report for PhD candidates and supervisors was conducted in the end of 2011. One of the main purposes for the progress report is to ensure that the PhD training is completed as far as possible within the defined timeframe. The faculties and departments are now analysing the results from the progress reports. One of the goals is to follow up issues that might lead to a delay or non-completion of the PhDs studies. Another issue is to detect weaknesses in how the duty work is organised, and if yes how to improve the current system. The progress report will give all the PhD candidates an opportunity to make changes and a best possible frame for their PhD.

Nearly 95% of all the PhD candidates at UiB full filled the progress report during November 2011. The number of respondents has increased from 2010, and hopefully 2012 will be another successful year for the survey. 44,7% of the PhD candidates at UiB is a part of a larger integrated project while 45,7% is a part of a research school. The number of candidates taking part in a research school has a small increase from 2010, but there is a huge variation between the different faculties. 7,3% of the PhDs at the Faculty of Psychology are members of a research school while the number at Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences is 63,7%. The most significant finding in the survey is the deviation between the actual number of PhD defences and the number of candidates expecting to finalize their PhD the following year. In 2010 468 candidates expected to finalize their thesis in 2011 - and the number of PhDs created was 252. For 2012 the expectation is 459, according to the progress reports.

NFR: Evaluation of the PhD Education

The Ministry of Education has asked the Research Council Norway to make an evaluation of the PhD education in Norway. The survey was made in November last year, and the results will be published in June 2012. Quality, organisation, future carrier opportunities and international aspects were some of the issues to be evaluated. The Norwegian PhD education was last evaluated in 2002. We recommend all PhDs to look for the report in June at:

<http://www.forskningsradet.no/>

ORPHEUS to Bergen 19-21 April 2012

Orpheus stands for **OR**ganisation for **PhD** Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the **EU**ropean **S**ystem.

The purpose for ORPHEUS is to establish common standards for PhD education in Europe. In 2004 the first ORPHEUS-conference was arranged in Zagreb, where the «Zagreb-declaration» was decided which defined the expected content of a PhD thesis in the biomedical context. The following year, the «Standards for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in Europe» was started, in cooperation with AMSE-The Association of Medical Schools in Europe and WFME- World Federation for Medical Education.

Orpheus conferences have been arranged in Helsinki (2007), Aarhus (2009), Vienna (2010) and Izmir (2011). In 2012, Bergen is the organizer of the seventh Orpheus Conference on the theme "Establishing Evaluation of PhD Training".

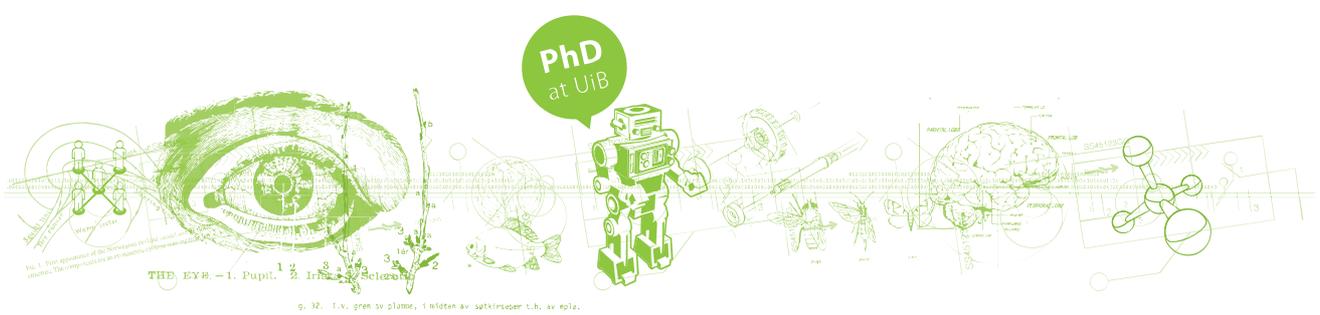
150-200 delegates will meet keynote speakers from NIFU, EUA (European University Association), EC, European Science Foundation, Karolinska Institutet, Council of Graduate Schools - USA and local main speakers as Stener Kvinnsland and Rune Nilsen. Focus for the conference will be bibliometric registrations to measure research results («telletanter») - where Norway is one of the leading countries.

Robert Harris from Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm has made an interesting title for his presentation: «Balancing the Ying/Yang of Doctoral Education - evaluating and examining Intended Learning Outcomes».

The chair of the conference is Professor Roland Jonsson, Broegelmans Forskningslaboratorium/Gades Institutt. More information and registration for the conference can be found at:

<http://www.orpheus2012.org/en/practicalinforegistration>





Researcher Training Courses at www.uib.no

PhD candidates at UiB are expected to register for researcher training courses on StudentWeb in connection with semester registration. Course information is published on UiB's webpages (www.uib.no), and can be found by:

- searching for a course by its name or course code (i.e. PS901) in the "search" field on www.uib.no
- clicking on a course name while registering for courses in StudentWeb
- via UiB's research school webpages (<http://www.uib.no/phd/en/phd-at-uib/research-schools>) or via faculty webpages (e.g. www.uib.no/mof)

UiB is currently in the process of developing a webpage that will present an overview of *all* PhD courses offered at the university. This webpage will be announced as soon as it is ready.

Need for funding?

The department of research management organizes several information days on how to apply for different funding sources:

3 May: Sean McCarthy Proposal Writing course
 27 March: National stipend day organised by NFR and NTNU in Trondheim.

http://www.forskningsradet.no/no/Arrangement/Flink_Ut_Stipenddagen_2012/1253971630523?lang=no

Evaluation of Research Schools at UiB

Research Schools to be continued

Research Schools is a novelty to doctoral education at Norwegian universities, and to learn more about them, Rector Sigmund Grønmo appointed a Working Group to evaluate the experiences that can be drawn from the present organization of the University of Bergen Research Schools. The Working Group filed its report at the end of the spring semester 2011.

It found that the Research Schools raised the quality of the doctoral education at UiB through more courses offered to the PhD students, social and scholarly networks, and being a supplement to the university's existing doctoral education. The Working Group recommended that the Research Schools should be continued, because the evaluation suggests that "Research Schools have given significant added value to the existing doctoral education at the University of Bergen". It was emphasized that the diverse way of organizing the Research Schools should be maintained. A predictable funding scheme should be given priority.

The recommendation were met by approval by the Faculties, which further emphasized the need for predictable funding and freedom in the way Research Schools are organized. The University's Research Commission endorsed the report in November 2011, but addressed the need to develop a set of agreed institutional criteria for establishing Research Schools at the University of Bergen. A proposal for such criteria will be presented during the spring semester 2012.

