

VIU International PhD Academy

Improving Research Practice and Transversal Skills for Young Scholars

September 11-15, 2023

Venice International
University

Scientific Coordinators:

Daniele Archibugi
Italian National Research
Council (CNR)

John Creemers
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Gregor Dugar
University of Ljubljana

Doing a PhD prepares you for a career in frontier research and education or for high-level roles in professional sectors where deep rigorous analysis is required. Besides the content specific to each discipline, there are some general procedures that are common and based on learning by doing and personal interactions. How should a research project be presented and funding secured? How to write a robust scientific paper? How do you develop your transversal skills and prepare yourself for your post-PhD career? Can you learn to deal with stress and train your resilience? The aim of this PhD Academy is to familiarize young researchers to practice in research activities and to introduce them to their peers from other sciences and the challenges of the world outside academia. The PhD Academy will be highly interactive with several practical exercises.

This Academy will be devoted to present and discuss some of the practices used in universities and research institutions. Students will have the opportunity to carry out exercises and simulations and then to get the comments of senior experts in the field.

Some of the current practices will also be critically assessed: are we sure that in an Internet-led society the concept of plagiarism has the same meaning than in the past? Are reference letters really useful? Is it worth to submit works to highly selective journals when most of the knowledge produced can be accessible on open-source websites?

The PhD Academy will be highly interactive with several practical exercises. Through the participation of students from various disciplinary backgrounds (humanities, social sciences, hard sciences), it will also explore similarities and differences across disciplines in the practice of the academic community.

This PhD Academy will be led by:

- Italian National Research Council (CNR), Italy
- KU Leuven, Belgium
- University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Faculty

Daniele Archibugi, Italian National Research Council, Italy (Scientific Coordinator)

John W.M. Creemers, KU Leuven (Scientific Coordinator)

Gregor Dugar, University of Ljubljana (Scientific Coordinator)

Giulia Andrighetto, Italian National Research Council
Mario Paolucci, Italian National Research Council
Nena Testelmans, KU Leuven
Joeri Wielandts, KU Leuven
Alessandra Fornetti, VIU TEN Program on Sustainability
Ilda Mannino, VIU TEN Program on Sustainability

Purpose

The need to train young researchers is more and more important for academic institutions. Since the number of PhD students exceeds the number of jobs in the academic world several times, there is a very severe competition for positions in universities and research centres. Fortunately, a plethora of non-academic jobs is available where your acquired skills are highly appreciated. During your PhD, research activities are evaluated according to several common criteria (including scientific output, robust methodology, funding secured, impact on the public opinion), and often junior researchers, even when they are good researchers, should learn how to navigate in these uncharted waters. Here, learning is mostly based on tacit knowledge therefore requiring coaching activity and personal interaction, besides formal studying. Universities have a responsibility to prepare their PhD students for the world outside academia and need to convince non-academic partners that a PhD has a variety of skills.

Topics

- What are the social challenges that researchers need to address?
- Choosing your mentors
- What is your professional community?
- How to publish your research
- How to present a research project
- Applying for academic and non-academic jobs
- Applying for funding: grants and scholarships
- How to communicate your research to mass-media and public opinion
- How to cope with stress and build resilience in academia

Learning outcomes for participants

The program provides participants with advanced skills for successfully implementing their PhD research projects into the real world.

Exercises

- Assess your motivation to be a researcher
- Assess your mentors
- Map your professional community
- Strengths and weaknesses of your CV
- Write the most important reference letter: yours!
- Writing a book proposal
- To survive in the Triangle: authors, editors and referees
- Set up a robust scientific paper
- Write a press release about your research
- A 120 second TV interview
- Job Interview exercise/simulation

Who can apply?

This international PhD Academy is offered to PhD students, Post-docs, and junior researchers across all disciplines. Specifically, the class will try to combine students in social sciences, humanities and hard sciences. Open to candidates from all the VIU Member Institutions; applications from excellent candidates from non-member institutions will be also considered and evaluated.

Fees & Grant Support

Students from the VIU member institutions will pay no participation fees. Grant support is also available to support, partially or fully, the costs of international travel and accommodation.

The participation fee for students of non-member institutions is Euro 1,150 (incl. VAT). The fee is inclusive of tuition, course materials, accommodation, lunches, social events and taxes. Students from non-member institutions are not eligible for VIU grant support. VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

The final program will be available on the VIU website

Applications

December 1, 2022 – May 15, 2023
via the VIU website

Applicants must submit the (1) application form, (2) a letter of motivation – which should include a short bio and a brief description of the candidate's research project, (3) a curriculum vitae and (4) a photo.

For further information: phdacademy@univiu.org

VIU International PhD Academies

Venice International University is a consortium of 20 universities, representing 14 countries throughout the world.

The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by developing, promoting and organizing joint academic, research and training/capacity-building program. Students from non-member universities may participate in selected academic programs.

The academic programs at VIU are distinguished by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the topics, and by the international perspectives that the participants contribute to the discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

Venice International University holds two/three International PhD Academies each year. They are intensive training opportunities open to PhD candidates from the member universities of VIU.

A PhD is the highest diploma awarded by universities in the world, and PhDs are naturally expected to take on major responsibilities in their professional life. Apart from the disciplinary scientific skills acquired during doctoral study and research, it is the ability to respond to the requirements of creativity, innovation and project management, that produce the significant added value of a doctoral degree.

Whether they will work within or outside academia, PhDs must be able to develop a forward-looking vision of the challenges they have to face. The interdisciplinary approach of all VIU activities is adopted also in the PhD Academy, where the participants have the opportunity to meet their peers from all over the world, and to tackle transversal topics.

www.univiu.org/study/phd-academy

Location



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