

First edition!

Dear PhD News readers

I am very proud to present the first-ever edition of the monthly PhD News.

The University of Bergen is committed to delivering high quality doctoral education. Part of this consists of keeping you informed about important news, such as implementation of the Action Plan for Postgraduate Education, facts and statistics, national and international trends and forthcoming events.

We are also very interested in your experiences and suggestions for improvements to our doctoral education. We also want you to share examples of best practice that can inspire others. So you are all invited to contribute to PhD News.

This first edition of PhD News includes a glimpse of the graduation ceremony in August, at which 115 candidates received their diplomas. This ceremony is one of the university's most important traditions. It marks the end of years of 'blood, sweat and tears'. In 2009 as a whole, we expect about 230 to complete their doctoral education.

You will also be able to read more about mid-term evaluations for all doctoral candidates. This evaluation is part of implementation of the Action Plan.

We also recommend you to take a look at the new and highly informative web pages of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

After reading this PhD News, I hope you both know more and feel inspired to contribute with your experiences.



Berit Rokne
Deputy Rector

What is PhD News?

PhD News is a monthly newsletter produced by the Department of Research Management.

The newsletter will feature news about doctoral education at the university, including facts and statistics and information about ongoing activities in the field of doctoral education in the region, and at the national and international level.

The Deputy Rector will also bring you up to date about developments in doctoral education at policy level. PhD News is aimed at everybody associated with doctoral education at the university, from leaders of research schools, to supervisors and PhD candidates, as well as administrative staff such as PhD coordinators.

We would also like to distribute the newsletter to all our external partners in doctoral education, such as research institutes and university colleges.

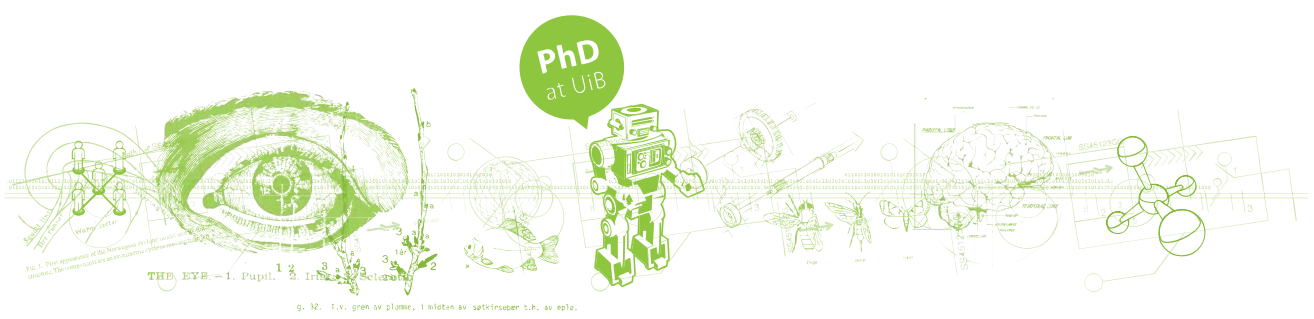
PhD News will be published monthly, and we welcome tips of all kinds for the next issue. Please let us know if there is an interesting seminar relating to doctoral education or ongoing changes aimed at improving doctoral education at UiB.

Feel free to send your comments and thoughts on PhD News. If you would like to subscribe to PhD News, send an e-mail to the editor at fekgk@fa.uib.no.

Graduation ceremony for new PhDs on Friday 28 August

A total of 115 candidates completed their doctoral degrees during the spring semester 2009.

In accordance with tradition, the new PhDs were presented with their doctoral degrees at a formal ceremony in the Håkon's Hall. After a speech by the rector, Sigmund Grønmo, the new doctors received their diplomas. Terje Knutsen gave a speech on behalf of the new doctors.



'This is doctors day,' he said and emphasised the amount of work and dedication that all of the new doctors have put into their projects. The motivation behind this hard work, he said, lies in the joy of research. The days when all the pieces come together make it all worthwhile.

Mr Knutsen also pointed out that this was merely a starting point for the new doctors, as they will now start their research careers proper. 'We will fondly remember that it all started at the University of Bergen,' he continued. In his closing remarks, Mr Knutsen concluded that doctoral education at UiB combines old traditions with new research.



Terje Knutsen speaks on behalf of the new doctors

Ministry wants mobility data on PhD candidates

The Ministry of Education and Research wants more information about the number of PhD candidates who have research stays abroad.

The University of Bergen has been asked to report to the ministry all research stays abroad by PhD candidates that last more than three months. UiB has no structured system for collecting this data, which means that the faculties will have to collect this information from candidates through the annual progress reports.

In future, UiB will endeavour to collect this information through the semester registration of PhD candidates, which will be implemented at UiB in 2010.

Faculty of Social Sciences launches new web pages in English!

After a lot of work, the faculty has now launched its new English language web pages.

The pages can be found by clicking [here!](#) Among other things, the pages contain a lot of useful information about admission and doctoral training.

This makes it easier for potential and existing PhD candidates to navigate and find relevant information. In addition to containing a lot of information, the new web pages are updated with pictures and illustrations.

Hopefully, more of the faculties will follow the example of the Faculty of Social Sciences and update their own web pages.

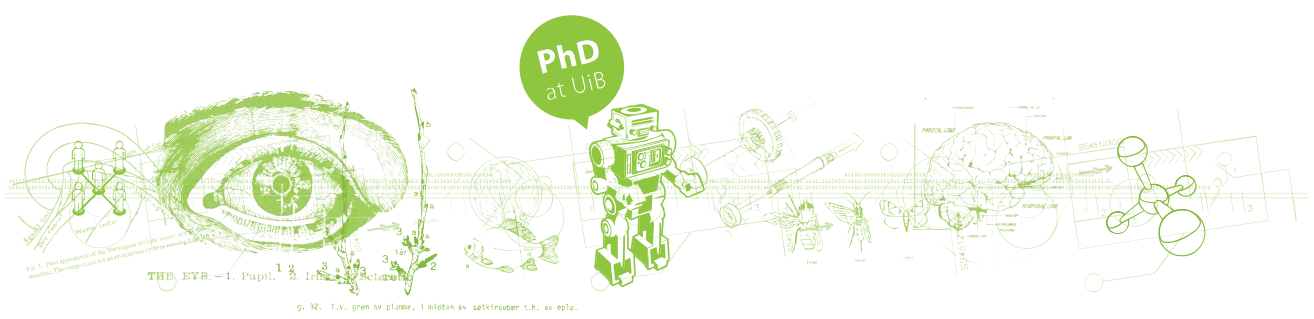
Mid-term evaluation for all PhD candidates

The university's research committee discussed mid-term evaluation for all doctoral candidates at its last meeting on 26 August.

As part of the action plan for doctoral education, from 2010, all PhD candidates will be evaluated during their third semester as doctoral candidates. The goal of this evaluation is to make sure that candidates are followed up by their faculties and that the candidates are progressing as planned with their doctoral education.

All faculties are asked to integrate mid-term evaluation as part of their continuous follow-up of PhD candidates. The Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry has already implemented mid-term evaluation, and it has gained some experience in this field. The Faculty of Psychology has drafted a plan for mid-term evaluation that will be discussed at the Faculty Research Board meeting on 14 October.

To read more about the mid-term evaluation [click here](#) (in Norwegian only).



Progress report 1 November

The first of November is the deadline for PhD candidates and supervisors to submit their progress reports on their doctoral education.

All PhD candidates and supervisors must report annually on the PhD candidates' progress and the individual candidate's doctoral research project. In order to provide the best possible environment and resources for PhD candidates, the departments and faculties follow up PhD candidates through progress reports.

From 2009, all PhD candidates and supervisors at UiB have the same deadline for submitting progress reports, and this year everyone should use the same forms, which are available at: www.uib.no/phd/en under the heading doctoral training - progression.

EUA seminar in Vienna 29/10-09:

'How to Assure Quality in New-Style Doctoral Studies?'

The conference aims to discuss the importance of quality assurance in new-style doctoral studies.

Hosted by Universities Austria and the European University Association's Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE), the seminar will focus on the special character of doctoral education, and the diversity of its organisation. To read more, [click here](#). To access the registration form, [click here](#). The deadline for applications is 15 October.

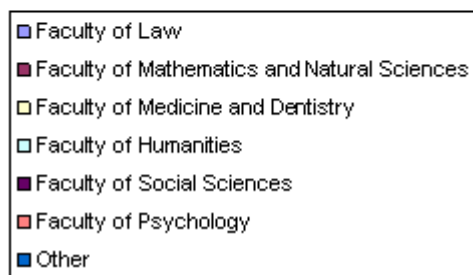
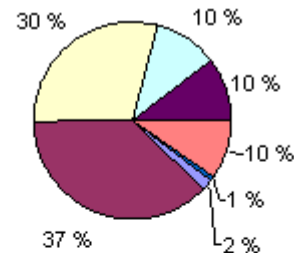
PhD debate:

'Among other things, the faculty lacks a holistic approach to research training,' says Ann-Kristin Molde, who is chair of the committee of PhD candidates at the Faculty of Humanities.

In September, PhD candidates and the faculty met to discuss relevant topics. The main issue was the high number of training courses candidates are required to take. The [committee](#) hopes that further meetings between candidates and the faculty will lead to improvements in the overall quality of doctoral education. [Read more](#).

Featured graph:

Distribution of the new doctors in the spring semester 2009. N=115.



What your research supposedly looks like:

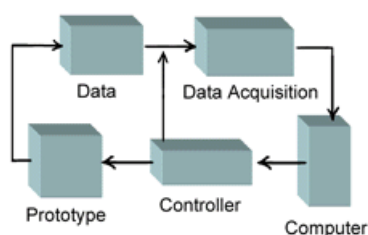


Figure 1. Experimental Diagram

What your research *actually* looks like:

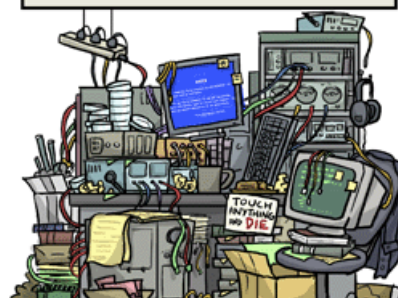


Figure 2. Experimental Mess

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