The Bergen Summer Research School (BSRS) is a joint initiative by five institutions of higher education and research in Bergen, addressing Global Development Challenges. BSRS is an integrated part of the doctoral education of the University of Bergen. The core of BSRS is a series of parallel high quality courses targeting doctoral candidates and junior researchers. The courses cover a range of thematic, empirical, theoretical and methodological topics relevant to research on major global challenges.

The theme for the 2015 research school is “Sustainable Development Goals to meet Global Development Challenges”.

From MDG to SDG

In September 2000, world leaders committed their nations to eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved by 2015, a unique and positive high level initiative. Among them is reducing extreme poverty by half, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, and increasing access to universal primary education. There have been significant achievements in for example child health and school enrollment, while many aspects of governance and quality of services have not shown such positive results.

Developed as milestones for global development, the MDGs initiated much research and debate about their profile and the impact this initiative have on national development in countries around the world. New knowledge, critical scientific assessments, and methodological developments bring important aspects into the discussion on what should follow the MDGs. This will be central to the Summer Research School next June.
The UN has established the Task Team to support preparations for the post-2015 development agenda and a High-level Panel of Eminent Persons to advice on the framework. The Rio+20 Conference initiated work on a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) consistent with the post-2015 process. The recent report of the High-level Panel, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*, supports the SDG perspectives and stresses the importance of research and higher education institutions in a post-2015 agenda.

**Building on the best research in Bergen**

The perspectives of Millennium Development Goals have been central elements in all previous research schools since its inception in 2008. Building on the four BSRS pillars of Ethics, Global Health, Environment, and Culture, a focus on the post-MDG process provides the opportunity to revisit and further explore the previous themes: poverty, climate change, energy, health, gender, ecology, migration, governance, and food.

Bergen Summer Research School builds on the best research clusters in the particular fields in Bergen and provides added value to the already established research schools. With the focus on the post-2015 agenda, the 2015 Bergen Summer Research School will:

- build on the quality and relevance from previous courses.
- discuss critical research on the MDG - SDG agenda, and performance and possibilities.
- invite contribution of strong and relevant research clusters at the partner institutions in Bergen.

BSRS creates a multidisciplinary international research training environment with high quality courses and international keynote speakers and panelists. With MDG and SDG as the crosscutting theme, the BSRS 2015 will gather about 70 research students and scientists from around the world to explore these complex and interlinked challenges.

Five parallel doctoral courses will be bound together by joint lectures by keynote speakers in addition to the courses and a set of plenary sessions and public meetings reaching out to the wider community.

The BSRS has since its start in 2008 been coordinated by UiB and is organized in a collaboration between the University of Bergen (UiB), the Norwegian School of Business Administration (NHH), Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), UNI Research (UNI) and Bergen University College (HiB).

In order to offer ECTS for doctoral education, the University of Bergen serves as the doctoral degree awarding institution. In order to ensure geographic balance BSRS will be able to offer financial support to a limited number of students. Full scholarships covering travel, accommodation and waiving of tuition fees will be offered for applicants from developing countries in the South and countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and in Central Asia. List of these countries is to be found at [http://siu.no/eng/Front-Page/Programme-information/Development-cooperation/Quota-Scheme](http://siu.no/eng/Front-Page/Programme-information/Development-cooperation/Quota-Scheme).
We hereby seek proposals from relevant research clusters at the BSRS partner institutions in Bergen for courses and international keynote speakers for the BSRS 2015. We strongly encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration both within and between courses, as well as the joint initiatives between the BSRS partner institutions in Bergen.

The final decision to run a course will be taken after the application deadline is passed. Please note that the number of applicants will in the end determine whether a course will be offered or not. Failure to comply with the deadlines may also jeopardise the organisation of a course. Partial scholarships in form or covering travel, accommodation or waiving of tuition fees will be offered.

For each course BSRS will cover the costs of one invited external course leader (airfare, accommodation in Bergen and a standard fixed honorarium for full participation (full 2 weeks) of NOK 10 000.

The deadline for submission of course proposals is October 1, 2015.

Proposals should be sent electronically to Scientific Director for BSRS 2015 Rune.Nilsen@cih.uib.no with copies (cc) to gdc@uib.no, Tore.Satersdal@adm.uib.no and Gro.Lie@psyhp.uib.no. Please mark the e-mail with “Course proposal BSRS 2015” in the subject line.

Questions could be addressed to Rune Nilsen (Rune.Nilsen@cih.uib.no; +4741479217); Howaida Faisal Abdelrahman (Howaida.Abdelrahman@adm.uib.no; +4799530115); and Hans Geir Aasmundsen (Hans.Aasmundsen@adm.uib.no; +4755589358)

Vennlig hilsen

Professor Anne Lise Fimreite
Professor Anne Chr. Johannessen
Prorektor
Viserektor for internasjonaliserer

Professor Rune Nilsen
Professor Gro Th. Lie
Faglig leader for BSRS2015
Leder av UiB Global