



Call for UniPID DocNet doctoral student membership applications

Following the closure of the national doctoral schools, among them the Finnish Graduate School in Development Studies, DEVESTU, UniPID network has acknowledged the necessity to look for new avenues and create new tools to continue the support for development research doctoral students at national level.

The Finnish development research doctoral network – *UniPID DocNet* is a nationwide initiative to support the interdisciplinary training and networking of doctoral students in Development Research. *UniPID DocNet* is a membership based network for selected doctoral students and supervisors from UniPID¹ member universities.

UniPID DocNet goals and activities

UniPID DocNet supports the interdisciplinary training and networking of doctoral students in development research, based in Finnish universities. The complementary *UniPID DocNet* training aims at strengthening particularly the theoretic-methodological skills and understanding, which are specific to development research or to research on or related to developing countries.

By bringing together both doctoral candidates and their supervisors *UniPID DocNet* facilitates peer support and relevant academic contacts. This is to enable the exchange of information and experiences, and possible extra supervision, which in turn will enhance the training quality and facilitate the creation of new partnerships.

To achieve the set goals, *UniPID DocNet* commits to following activities:

- *UniPID DocShop*: *UniPID DocNet* will organize an annual workshop for doctoral students and supervisors to discuss and elaborate on timely issues related to quality of training, or on current theoretic-methodological issues;
- *UniPID DocNet Summer School*: *UniPID DocNet* will organize a yearly call for development related summer school proposals from UniPID member universities;
- Pooling the training and the support offered to development research doctoral training: UniPID member universities are encouraged to open the access to their already existing doctoral training, seminars, and other relevant events to all UniPID member universities;
- UniPID will offer a limited number of travel grants for the doctoral students' participation in the different events organized by *UniPID DocNet* or by UniPID member universities;

UniPID DocNet membership benefits

¹ Aalto University, University of Helsinki, University of Eastern Finland, University of Jyväskylä, University of Lapland, University of Oulu, University of Tampere, University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University

The benefits for the *UniPID DocNet* doctoral student members are the following:

- Access to development specific training to complement the training received at their home universities;
- Receiving information about the already existing support for doctoral students;
- Receiving extra supervision;
- Doctoral students' peer support and networking;
- Priority in the selection of the grantees for *UniPID DocNet* travel grants and possible other funding;
- Receiving support for strengthening the knowledge and skills to publish in development research journals;
- Increasing the understanding of the challenges and benefits involved in interdisciplinarity;
- Increased contacts and networking with supervisors across the different UniPID member universities;
- Increased contacts with international academic visitors and experts; and
- As a selected position, the doctoral students can refer to *UniPID DocNet* membership in any funding or other applications.

The *UniPID DocNet* membership is valid until the PhD is finished. However, should the length of the membership exceed four years, it will be subject to revision. The membership is free of charge.

Requirements for the UniPID DocNet membership applicants

The applicants for *UniPID DocNet* doctoral student membership have to be enrolled and active doctoral students in a UniPID member university. The applicants must be working on thesis in development research, or related to global development, or developing countries.

The selections of members are made by a selection committee, which is formed by the *UniPID doctoral training working group*, completed by other academics to ensure disciplinary coverage. The supervisors of the selected students are also invited to become members of the network. In addition, other interested supervisors may be invited.

Applications

Call for UniPID DocNet membership now open!

The membership call is open until further notice. Applications will be processed monthly, with August applications being processed at the beginning of September, and so on.

The electronic application form can be found here: <http://goo.gl/forms/Zsbq9AL5ya>.

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