

Report – NRSNGH International Training Grant 2017

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I am PhD student at health sciences in Arctic University of Norway (UiT) and I have received an NRSNGH International training grant to participate in the 30th Residential Summer Course in Epidemiology, in Florence, Italy during 18-30 June, 2017. The course was part of European Educational Programme in Epidemiology and gave students opportunity to expand knowledge in statistics and epidemiology. Two-week course was very intensive and productive, lectures were provided by the lecturers from European universities and research institutions. During the lectures I got lot information about general statistics and epidemiology study designs, also they described in details how to analyze the data using Statistical package STATA and introduce us the different ways of working with database. On the other hand, we had group works and practical exercises which were extremely helpful for becoming more familiar with the programme and general epidemiology, as well. The discussions after exercises and provided explanations were important to double-check already realized information. The second week was more complicated because the topics were more difficult but after practical sessions and discussions the instructions were understandable.

Personally for me the course was informative and useful because I feel much more familiar with STATA and the process how to set and analyze data and make correct interpretation of the results. Because of the fact that my plan is to use STATA for statistical analysis for my first paper, the course was really relevant and important step in my education pathway. Additionally, the basic knowledge which I had in statistics and epidemiology got expanded and I have gained fluent information about the topics.

In another point of view, such kind of collaborations is important especially for PhD students to make friends, find more people who are working in the same field, create new networks and etc. The course participants were from the different countries, working on different issues and sharing our experience was really interesting. There were several social gatherings, like sangria party, which was nice for making friends and having fun after long, tiring and productive day.

To sum up, I definitely advice other PhD students if they have opportunity, attend this course. Excellent lecturers, hard and intensive work, nice atmosphere, lots of new faces, Italian culture and kitchen - that are what this course provides.