

# PhD Supervisor Workshop

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**Date:** 18 – 20 October 2017

**Place:** [Copperhill Mountain Lodge](#), Åre, Sweden

Registration deadline: 1 September 2017.

NB: Max 50 participants

## Highlights:

- *Exchange supervision skills and strategies with your colleagues*
- *Get best practice examples and expertise in supervision*
- *Learn how to recruit good candidates and build a research group*
- *Develop your career plan and think strategically about supervision*

**About the program:** The workshop is organized by the [Norwegian Research School in Neuroscience \(NRSN\)](#) and [Digital Life Norway Research School](#). The program is tailor-made for supervisors in the early stages of their career and will focus on challenges that are particularly relevant in the fields of neuroscience and biotechnology.

**Target group:** The workshop is intended for researchers at post-doc level and above who are working in the field of neuroscience or biotechnology. All participants should have some experience with PhD supervision in order to attend. There is a maximum of 50 participants, and we give priority to the main supervisors of PhD students who are members of NRSN or Digital Life. If your student is not yet a member, (s)he can register now via the registration form of NRSN or Digital Life

**Practical arrangements:** There is no course fee, and the research schools will cover the costs of travel, accommodation and meals. We hope that our venue will invite all participants to network and share experiences in a charming atmosphere in the Swedish mountains. Participants are asked to make their own travel arrangements, and we will reimburse the expenses after the event (We recommend for all to fly to Trondheim and for flights we only reimburse economy class.).

**Preparations:** Prior to the workshop we will send a brief questionnaire to the participants' PhD candidates where we ask them to share their personal experience of the supervision process with us. We will use this material to prepare material to create types of supervisors and will invite you to look at these types in networking exercises during your journey on the bus as well during the workshop.

**Questions?** Please contact [Tanja Doller](#) (NRSN) or [Liv Eggset Falkenberg](#) (Digital Life)

*The included program is preliminary regarding the speakers, we will update you as soon as the invited speakers have confirmed.*

## Wednesday 18 October

- 16:00 Assembly at Værnes Airport and NTNU for bus transfer to Åre  
16:15-18:00 Bus transfer with networking card games: Discuss different types of PhDs and examples of supervision with your neighbor on the bus  
18:30 Welcome reception at Copperhill Mountain Lodge and check in  
19:00 Dinner

## Thursday 19 October

- 10:00-10:15: **Opening**  
*Menno Witter & Olav Haraldseth (NRSN/Digital Life)*
- 10:15-11:00: **Ice breaker: What type of supervisor are you?**  
*Liv Falkenberg & Tanja Doller (Digital Life/NRSN)*  
Join our personality test, which is based on the survey we did with your PhDs – we will hand out individual envelopes afterwards to surprise you with the profile
- 11:00-11:15: *Coffee break*
- 11:15-11:55: **Keynote 'Intended Learning Outcomes' as a tool for PhD supervisors**  
*Invited speaker*  
'Intended Learning Outcomes' as a tool for project planning, and for motivation, monitoring and evaluation of PhD candidates.
- 11:55-12:15: **Group work:** Participants will work in groups to define relevant learning outcomes for their candidates.
- 12.15-13.00: **Advice from a PhD supervisor and her/his student**  
*Invited speakers*  
A PhD supervisor will present her/his approach to supervision and what (s)he considers success factors and pitfalls, and her/his PhD student will share her/his opinion on the supervision.
- 13.00-14.00: *Lunch*
- 14.00-15.00: **Walk and talk about your role as supervisor** focusing on your role as assessor of the PhD project on the one hand and being a mentor for your PhD student on the other hand. We have discussion cards ready for you and a beautiful hike prepared.
- 15.00-15.15: *Coffee break with fruit and chocolate*
- 15:15-16:45: **Ethical challenges in PhD supervision**  
*Invited speakers*  
Presentation of the philosophy of natural, medical and environmental science, the uncertainty and complexity in the science-society interface with a special focus on ethical aspects.
- 16:45-17:17: **Group work:** Discussion of selected cases of ethical dilemmas, with special focus on the relationship between supervisor and candidate.
- 17:15-19:00: Free time - enjoy the nature or the free access to the [hotel spa](#)
- 19:00- *Dinner*

## Friday 20 October

**09.00-10.00: Recruitment of PhD candidates and building your research lab**

*Invited speaker*

How do you find the best PhD candidates and build a motivated and effective research group? Presentation of formal regulations and strategies for evaluation and selection of candidates, with practical examples and recommendations. Participants will work in groups to discuss and improve their own recruitment strategies.

*10.00-10.15: Coffee break*

**10.15-11.00: A code for PhD supervisors**

*Tanja Doller (NRSN)*

Supervisors will learn how to prevent and solve potential conflicts in the interaction with their PhD candidates, such as mismatch in personalities, poor group dynamics, culturally based misunderstandings, and academic disagreements.

**11:00-11:30 Walk and talk:** Exchange personal experiences and moments of struggle

*11.30-12.30: Lunch*

**12.30-14.00: The nitty-gritty of PhD supervision**

*Invited speaker*

Participants will discuss every day, practical challenges that are common for supervisors in natural/health sciences, and possible solutions to these. Examples include interdisciplinary collaboration, cultural differences, division of labor among co-supervisors, training in generic skills, writing process, etc.

*14.00-14:30: Break with snack*

**14.30-15.45 Panel discussion on career options for PhDs in- and outside academia**

*Invited participants*

Overview of relevant national and EU funding schemes and career perspectives for PhDs outside academia.

**15:45-16:00: Wrap-up discussion**

Participants are encouraged to reflect upon what they have learned in the workshop and how to make use of this in their daily work. How can they improve their competence as supervisors?

*16:00: Departure by bus either to Trondheim city or Værnes Airport*