

Title: Transferable skills course

What was done:

As a continuation of the joint developed LEADER pilot. AU has decided to offer a PhD transferable skills course (5 ECTS credits) In June 2013. The title of the course is “Research, Career, and Innovation - Developing your future career as a PhD”.

The course takes its point of departure in the fact that as a PhD you possess a broad spectrum of highly qualified skills and have been trained in functions that can accommodate both an academic career and the job market outside the universities. These skills are transferable into a variety of creative and innovative functions and are highly valuable regardless of what career path you choose.

Some of the issues that will be taught and discussed are policy-making, commercialisation of research, project management, dialogue with the media, and the function of innovation on the job market.

The course programme is divided into four modules with focus on different areas:

- Module A: Presentation, Communication and Argumentation
- Module B: Creating Value from Knowledge
- Module C: Organisational Skills and Science in Policy Making
- Module D: Research Management Training

Links to:

- Approaches to training and support for doctoral candidates and supervisors

Motivation and aims:

The aim of the course is to encourage reflection on how the training of PhDs to immerse into a particular research topic, and thereby to provide both knowledge and insights, can be transferred into skills that accommodate career possibilities within e.g. private companies or political institutions.

Lessons learnt:

No lessons yet. However the LEADER course was very successful with very good evaluations. The demand for the course is expected to be high. There has been made a thorough evaluation of LEADER 2012 with recommendations for future similar courses. Some of these recommendations are:

Course planning

A planning session with the teachers should be prioritised well in advance of the course to focus on the interrelation of modules, overlapping content and the order of the modules.

Pre-course communication

In general, it is important to communicate the schedules and expected workload well in advance of the course.

Pre-course material

Providing the participants with pre-course reading material for each module will make the course more effective.

Course structure

It is highly appreciated by the participants to include field trips or excursions during the course to

put theory into perspective and meet with professionals closely connected to the content of the modules (e.g. concrete examples of applied methods).

Scalability and transferability:

The course is both scalable and transferable. The current budget is approx. £20,000. There is 35 seats available for PhD students at AU.

Further information:

<http://phd.au.dk/transferableskills/phdcourseresearchcareerandinnovation/>

Location of practice: AU Research and Talent

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Work package titles and themes:

- International dimensions to examination, supervision and the doctoral experience
- Design and development of a doctoral supplement to cover broader activities, training and experiences with a particular focus on employability & mobility
- Employer engagement, including employers not traditionally associated with the recruitment of doctoral graduates
- Approaches to training and support for doctoral candidates and supervisors
- Dissemination and promotion

Note for authors:

These case studies will be made publically available via the project website and may be included in future project publications and reports (printed and online).

Project website: www.doctoralexcellence.dk

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