GOAL & FOCUS

The International Summer School on Ageing (ISSA) aims at building capacity by offering graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in ageing research the opportunity to enhance their chances of starting a career in their field, and to network with emerging researchers and academic mentors from different countries. Its design reflects multifaceted perspectives of the ageing process and has a strong interdisciplinary and international focus. It is organised in nine learning modules that consider both relevant content and methodological issues in the field of ageing research. The summer school will have a specific focus on longitudinal and epidemiological studies.

AIMS

The ISSA aims at offering PhD students and post-doctoral fellows involved in ageing research, and those doing post-graduate training that includes a focus in this field, an advanced training programme that crosses disciplines, sectors, institutions and geography, by addressing main research priorities and methodologies in the following areas:

- Biomedical research
- Clinical and geriatric research
- Psychological research
- Social and economic research
- Environmental and technological research

Participants are given the opportunity to:

1. Gain an understanding of processes critical to carry out high quality scientific research as well as professional work in the field of ageing, through plenary and practical sessions;
2. Examine multidisciplinary collaboration, grant preparation, peer review, communication, knowledge transfer, professionalism and ethics in the context of research on ageing;
3. Network with other emerging researchers in ageing and with leading academic mentors from across the world.

This is achieved through a joint scientific collaboration among the Lund University (Sweden), the Swedish National Graduate School for Competitive Science on Ageing and Health, the National Institute of Health and Science on Aging - INRCA (Italy) and the University of British Columbia (Canada).

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
The ISSA addresses PhD students and post-docs, professionals in post-doc graduate clinical training that includes a programme of research in ageing. Candidates to the Summer School should already have some experience in gerontological research. Candidates’ scientific background can be in the following disciplines:
1) biomedicine; 2) psychology; 3) sociology; 4) economics; 5) demographics; 6) medicine/geriatrics; 7) epidemiology/statistics; 8) technology and environment (e.g. architecture, engineering, geography etc.).

Up to 20 PhD students or post-docs will be accepted for the programme, with their interests covering one or more of the main background areas above. The programme organisers will aim for a well-balanced mix of the participants to strengthen the interdisciplinary focus of the Summer School.

ORGANISATION OF SINGLE MODULES
Each module is structured as follows:
- First part (2 hours): lessons + question and discussion time
- 30-minute break
- Second part (1.5 hours): working groups + exercises

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 24th August
- Arrival and welcome dinner

Monday, 25th August
- MODULE 1: Introduction to ageing research and presentation of participants
- MODULE 2: Mentoring session: “discussing your own research”

Tuesday, 26th August
- MODULE 3: Study design and research methods (qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods approaches)
- MODULE 4: Potentials and pitfalls of longitudinal studies in ageing research

Wednesday, 27th August
- MODULE 5: Potentials and pitfalls of epidemiological studies in ageing research
- MODULE 6: Focus on dementia, environmental, health economics and cross-country research in ageing

Thursday, 28th August
- MODULE 7: Writing a research article: principles and techniques
- MODULE 8: Applying for research funding: principles and techniques

Friday, 29th August
- MODULE 9: Knowledge dissemination, bridge building and career building
- Closing plenary and farewell

HOST
The second edition of the ISSA will be hosted by the Centre for Ageing and Supportive Environments (CASE), Lund University (Sweden) and the Swedish Graduate School for Competitive Science on Ageing and Health, in Lund, a city located in the southern part of Sweden (for further information about the area: http://visitskane.com/en/).
COORDINATION & MENTORS
Lund University Coordinator
Ass. Prof. Torbjörn Svensson

Mentors
- Dr. Carlos Chiatti - National Institute of Health and Science on Aging (INRCA), Italy
- Prof. Gunnar Gouras - Lund University, Sweden
- Prof. Susanne Iwarsson - Lund University, Sweden
- Prof. Boo Johansson - Gothenburg University, Sweden
- Dr. Giovanni Lamura - National Institute of Health and Science on Aging (INRCA), Italy

Support and logistics
Logistics: Ingrid Hilborn - ingrid.hilborn@med.lu.se

DEADLINES
15th April: Deadline for submitting applications
9th May: Communication to applicants of selection outcomes
6th June: Deadline for registration
24-29 August: ISSA in Lund

TUITION FEES
Participants are asked to pay a 400€ registration fee. The ISSA will cover the following costs:
- Travel: lowest price economy return airline ticket or bus transportation from the applicant’s home town or academic institution to the ISSA 2014 location, including ground transfers to Lund. Local participants who prefer to drive will be reimbursed for mileage provided the cost does not exceed that of lowest economy airfare or bus transportation.
- Accommodation: it will be arranged and paid for by the organisers of the ISSA 2014 for five nights (Sunday, August 24, through Friday, August 29).
- Meals: three meals per day will be provided for the full duration of the Programme.

FUNDING & ENDORSEMENTS
The second edition of ISSA is funded by Lund University and the Swedish National Graduate School on Ageing and Health.

HOW TO APPLY
The filled in applications have to be sent by April 15th to the ISSA secretariat at: Ingrid.hilborn@med.lu.se.
An application review committee will select 20 students, based on eligibility criteria, research interests, range of disciplinary backgrounds and national and institutional distribution. All applicants will be notified of the committee’s decisions by May 9th.

Participants will be responsible for any additional meals/transportation/hotel and incidental expenses.

For further information please contact:
Ingrid Hilborn
e-mail: ingrid.hilborn@med.lu.se
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON AGEING

2014
LUND - SWEDEN