

## **Call for Applications**

**17 March 2017**

**25 awards to attend the joint**

**Karolinska Institute & Helmholtz Association**

**Doctoral Supervision Course**

**Sponsored by the President's Strategic Fund**

The Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres is committed to the highest standards of doctoral education. Over 7,500 PhD candidates are supervised within the Helmholtz Centres with the goals of developing PhD candidates' early independence, networking, career development and internationalization.

The Association recognizes that high-quality supervision is a key to reaching these goals and seeks to consolidate best practice within its 18 research centres. To help achieve this, the Association is awarding 25 grants for supervisors to attend at a 'Doctoral Supervision' course at the Karolinska Institute ([www.ki.se](http://www.ki.se)) on 21 – 25 August 2017. The Karolinska Institute, located in Stockholm, is one of the largest and most prestigious medical universities in the world. Moreover, it is a world leader in postgraduate pedagogy. The course is jointly certificated by both the Karolinska Institute and the Helmholtz Association.

Participants will share their experiences, learn how theoretical pedagogy relates to their own practices, consolidate their knowledge and become a champion of best practice within their respective Helmholtz research centre.

### **A. Goal of the Awards**

One of the Helmholtz Association's key objectives within its mission is to promote talented young scientists individually. A positive experience of supervision for very early career stage of doctoral candidate is vital to achieving this objective. Yet, whilst good science is often encouraged through seeking new perspectives from the international community, international knowledge exchange in supervision and pedagogy (an important academic subject itself) is rare. Receiving the award to attend the joint Karolinska Institute and Helmholtz Association course is a rare opportunity to learn from the subject experts on a course which is tailored to the Helmholtz Association's multi-disciplinary operation.

The attendees will become Helmholtz thought leaders in a supervisors' community of practice within the Association. Supervisors holding the joint Karolinska and Helmholtz certificate will also be able to demonstrate their commitment to their own professional development as supervisors, which may prove advantageous for those later seeking positions within the university sector.

### **B. Object of the funding**

One grant per research centres is guaranteed. In case, the centres send no applications, these grants can be awarded to other centres. Each centre should propose a list of up to

three supervisors to receive the grant. The Helmholtz Office head office will select the additional attendees based on ensuring sufficient coverage in each of the six research fields and geographic coverage where sites are split.

### **C: Course Content**

The course consists of two parts and will be completed in four days: three full days and two half days, starting Monday, 21 August 2017, in the afternoon and finishing Friday, 25 August 2017, at noon.

Two-and-a-half days cover “general, supervising researcher” content:

- Exploration of the experience of the members of the group as supervisors
- How latest postgraduate pedagogy can be applied
- How varied communication styles support good supervision
- How cultural differences frame the experience of the student and supervisor
- How common problems occur during supervision, how they can be avoided or mediated out
- How best to use colleagues to assess your teaching and supervision skills
- How intended learning outcomes (ILOs) shape supervisor plans.
- How to develop an individual supervision plan.

One-and-a-half days cover “Helmholtz specific” content:

- Quality standards of PhD supervision at the Helmholtz Association
- Individual Supervision and Structured PhD Programs within Helmholtz Association
- Recruiting the best PhD students
- Diversity/equality regulations and research ethics at Helmholtz Association.

All courses are taught in English. On most sessions there will be at least two course leaders present teaching.

### **D. Target group**

This call is directed at supervisors who:

- have experience of supervising at least 3 PhD candidates and be a current supervisor
- have an intrinsic curiosity about teaching techniques for post-graduates in a research setting
- have not already received formal training in supervision
- are committed to attending a feedback and networking conference (1 day) at the Helmholtz Association headquarter in Berlin.

### **E. Funding**

The grants cover the costs of providing the four-day course (the grant will be paid directly to the Karolinska Institute on behalf of the grant recipient), including lunch and coffee breaks. Individual research centres will pay for travel and accommodation for the recipient(s) of the grant.

### **F. Application**

1. **The Helmholtz Centres** should send up to three nominees to the Helmholtz Head Office **by 19 May 2017 (cut-off period)** indicating the rank order of the nominations and a short statement of motivation by the applicant (up to one page).
2. The Helmholtz Head Office will circulate the full list of attendees on **2 June 2017**.