Description for potential applicants

The HEAD graduate school on HEaring and Deafness is run in collaboration between the universities of Linköping and Örebro within the framework of the interdisciplinary Swedish Institute for Disability Research (SIDR) and is funded by the Swedish Research Council.

The graduate school has an interdisciplinary profile and an educational philosophy that is student centered and problem based. Research projects illuminate two central dimensions: individual-society and arts-sciences. Examples of hearing and deafness phenomena studied during training may include: growing up with a cochlear implant (a surgically fitted form of hearing aid), coping with noise at work, learning to live with tinnitus, or how hearing aid fitting can take into account individual neural, sensory, cognitive and social parameters.

All doctoral students in the HEAD graduate school must be accepted for doctoral studies at a university department. In order to be accepted into the HEAD Graduate School, the candidate must have a PhD student position, and must take part in the courses and activities of the graduate school according to its requirements. An agreement of acceptance is made on an individual level between the doctoral student, the supervisor, and the HEAD Graduate School after a formal application procedure. All doctoral students in the HEAD graduate school are expected to acknowledge their affiliation to the graduate school when presenting their research.

There will be two categories of doctoral students with the HEAD Graduate School. One category consists of doctoral students at SIDR and the other category consists of doctoral students outside SIDR. Students outside SIDR are strongly encouraged to publish their doctoral theses in SIDR’s publication series.

The HEAD Graduate School does not provide any financing for research projects or PhD student positions. Furthermore the HEAD graduate school is not involved in the examination of doctoral theses: this will be taken care of by the departments at which the student has been accepted for doctoral studies. Instead, the activities of the graduate school consist of three parts: courses, internal and external activities. Supervisors of HEAD doctoral students are encouraged to regard all HEAD activities as having the potential to generate academic course points.

- The courses will be of three different types:
  - Foundation course in Disability Research 30 ects. This course is run by SIDR and provides a broad base in multidisciplinary Disability Research. It is has been successively developed since 1996. It is compulsory for HEAD doctoral students at SIDR but not for HEAD doctoral students outside SIDR.
  - Courses which cover topics within the field of hearing and deafness.
  - Method courses.
Internal activities are primarily for doctoral students at HEAD and their supervisors. However, other parties may be invited to participate, including scientists and representatives from industry, public authorities and user organizations. Examples of internal activities are workshops, seminars, conferences, and study visits.

The HEAD Graduate School actively encourages participation in relevant activities organized by other bodies. An annual ‘rucksack’ of SEK 10,000 will be available to doctoral students who actively participate in HEAD courses and internal activities. Travel grants will also be available and will be assessed from case to case.

The aim of the HEAD Graduate School is to foster excellence among doctoral students within the field of hearing and deafness, to generate greater knowledge within the field and to disseminate that knowledge.

Any doctoral student pursuing a project within the field of hearing and deafness and who is interested in adopting a multidisciplinary approach can apply to join the HEAD Graduate School. We encourage participation of doctoral students from different disciplinary fields including engineering, social, natural and medical sciences.

Doctoral students will be admitted to the HEAD Graduate School on a continuous basis. The application should include the application form, a letter (max one page) describing your interests and motivation to join the HEAD Graduate School, CV, and an accompanying letter from your main supervisor certifying that he/she is supporting your application.

For more information please contact:
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