



Protocol of Meeting with the DIPP student Representatives

14. March 2015

Participants

Members of the council: Mario Alejandro Garcia
Ana Maria Blanco

Leipzig
Jena
Freiberg
Halle

Meeting

Moderator: Mario Alejandro Garcia
Protocol: Mario Alejandro Garcia

Beginning: 17:00

End: 18:00

Location: CRTD - Dresden

Summary

On the 14th March, Ana and Mario attended a monthly meeting of the PhD Student Representatives of the Dresden International PhD Program (DIPP). The DIPP program is focused on biotechnology and medicine and it is coordinated by the Max Plank Institute (MPI) and the TU Dresden. The aim of the PhD Student Representative is to improve the working and studying conditions within the DIPP. They organize social activities and they may also be consulted in case of conflict.

The main goals of this meeting were:

- get to know how they are working and how they are organized,
- establish a cooperation between the PhD Council and the DIPP.

As general information, there are approximately 250 students registered at the DIPP and around 60% of them are international students. The number of representatives is 12. From the 10 representatives who took part in the meeting, only 5 of them are registered to the Graduate Academy. Additionally, 1 of 2 students belongs to the MPI.

The representation group is organized in different committees who meet once a month and work in coordination to the Administrative department. The committees are:

- Teaching committee. Focused on recommending special or advanced courses for the program.
- Mentoring. Provide general support to the students through linking Experts and students in a particular field, holding presentations and discussions that may be of interest in the program and linking sport activities among the students.
- Communication. Sending relevant information through a list of all DIPP students.



- Talks. Organizes presentations every month, these are not about a specific topic, but focused on topics of interest in the program. In June, noble prize in Chemistry Stefan Hell will give a talk.
- Activities. Focused on developing social activities among the students: "Beer-friday", retrieves and parties are considered every semester.
- Calendar. Keeping update a web calendar with all important events going on.
- Rigorosum. A database with all important information from previous exams is collected and shared to the students.

They also implemented a series of surveys in order to get feedback from the students, new ideas and ways to improve the program. These surveys are sent to the Administrative department and they decide whether to implement them or not. Furthermore, they are in direct contact with a PhD directives of all MPIs. We also got some input for the PhD Council and in general for the Graduate Academy:

- While the half of the representatives registered to the GA is aware of the courses and activities, the other half has no knowledge of them,
- It is not mandatory to be part of the GA, as seen in many other institutes,
- Due to their location, it is difficult to attend the courses offered by the Graduate Academy because it is complicated to come to the main campus for only a couple of hours a day. They suggest making the courses in the evening, so they can also take part of them.
- They consider that the amount of available places in the courses is not enough.
- While being a majority of international students, courses in English have a higher priority for them.
- They are interested in collaborating with us and they would like to take part in the "Day of PhD".
- We agreed to send them an invitation for joining the next PhD Council meeting.

The contact information for the DIPP representatives:

website: http://www.dresden-ipp.de/predocs/phd_student_representatives.html

email: studreps@mpi-cbg.de