



Doctoral Schools of the IDEA League

The Doctoral School of IDEA League has the goal to combine the search for solutions for global challenges or a hot thematic topic with innovative doctoral training.

- The Programmes of the Doctoral School are funded by the IDEA League partners, and require a decision by the Heads at the Joint Board Meeting of the IDEA League. Funds by IDEA League for a Doctoral School programme are an investment, aiming for an innovative training programme for a selected group of IDEA League students, but also for the long-time effect of deepened co-operation between the academic partners of the IDEA League network.
- The Programme of the Doctoral School started in 2012 with the pilot programme on Aging and Sustainability in combination with entrepreneurship. The second programme has the topic Urban Systems with a research focus on the questions “What makes cities adaptive and resilient?” The programme ran 2014-2015. The third programme ran in 2015 under the topic Quantum Information Processing and entailed four one-week schools.

Framework

How to set up an IDEA League Doctoral School Programme?

- It is a prerequisite that all IDEA League partners are actively involved in the programme by contributing to the content and being represented in a Scientific Board. The Scientific Board decides on an overarching topic, learning goals and objectives, deliverables of the participating PhD students for the entire programme and a training programme which should give thorough consideration to transferable skills.
- As the Doctoral School programmes are funded by the IDEA League, the target group are students from the IDEA League partners, either in their PhD phase, or under the definition of early stage researcher, as advanced Master students. Students coming from other universities should be an exception, should not exceed 25% of the entire cohort, and need to be funded from other sources than IDEA League.

How to run an IDEA League Doctoral School Programme?

- For each programme there is a Scientific Board comprising of at least one representative per IDEA League partner and the Secretary General of the IDEA League. The Scientific Board decides the goals and deliverables of the programme, the procedures and the content of the activities/modules.
- The Doctoral School will provide some kind of evaluation of the Doctoral School to the Board of IDEA League. This evaluation is free format.
- **Continuation** after the DS: The Doctoral School will indicate how the networks and/or expertise, built up during the DS will be continued after the DS.
- The IDEA League office receives the list of participants, indicating name and home university, as well as the agendas for all activities/modules. Furthermore, for all activities/modules there is an evaluation which will be shared with the IDEA League office.
- All programmes are taking part under the framework of the IDEA League Doctoral School and should therefore adhere to the guidelines of the corporate design of TU Delft, ETH Zürich, RWTH Aachen, Chalmers, Politecnico di Milano and the IDEA League (logo, colors, use of web site, design of brochure). The IDEA League office is offering help with all these issues.

IDEA League



- Opportunities of the IDEA League for students (funds for mobility, summer school programme, funds for study associations) are actively promoted in the programme, for example via an introductory presentation by the Secretary General.

Finance

The Doctoral Schools are financed by the additional local fees of the members (and not from the general budget of IDEA League financed by the annual contribution of the members). Typically, the total subsidy by IDEA League will not exceed (5x 12,5 =) **62.500** euro. This budget is to be **matched** by resources from the Department or other organizing entity. IDEA League's subsidy should not cover more than 70% of the total cost. There should always be matching funds.

Process, criteria and maximum number of Doctoral Schools

The DS is typically a bottom up initiative. Proposals should be handed in by the SG of IDEA League before September prior to the year the DS is planned to take place. In that way, budget consequences can be incorporated.

In the event that there are several proposals to run Doctoral Schools, the JBM will decide which Schools will be elected. The criteria for selection are: interdisciplinarity; the likelihood that the network amongst PhD candidates and academic staff will be sustained after completion of the DS; focus on transferrable skills.

Typically, the JBM will not honor more than two Doctoral Schools each year.