



NORBIS

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The national doctoral school in bioinformatics,
biostatistics and systems biology

Partnership program between NORBIS and industry



The Research Council
of Norway

About NORBIS

NORBIS is a Norwegian research school working within the fields of bioinformatics, biostatistics and systems biology.

NORBIS, as a national research school, aims to provide a high quality PhD education through its network of excellent research groups within the fields of bioinformatics, biostatistics, and systems biology. Eight universities in Norway are part of NORBIS, combining a broad range of techniques and expertise.

The purpose of this graduate school is to contribute to the training of the next generation scientists in computational molecular biology. We will develop new courses, build educational tracks and promote a new scientific community, so that our graduate students will be able to contribute strongly to the most important scientific projects in molecular life sciences in Norway and internationally.

The school aims to educate methods-oriented researchers at the PhD level, who are working as data scientists in molecular life science, in relevant advanced methods from computer science, mathematics and statistics. within bioinformatics, statistical genomics and computational biology and the wider area of molecular life science.

The school has the ambition to promote contacts with the international research community in the field, in the society and among relevant industries. This new arena for research and education will improve the PhD-education, increase the recruitment to this fast growing scientific field, and give an overall international perspective to the PhD-training.

The research school is funded by the Norwegian Research Council for a period of eight years.



About NORBIS partnership program with the industry

Universities have a central role in driving research and innovation, in addition to educate people that will be highly demanded on the job market. NORBIS aims to promote contacts with industries and governmental bodies in Norway. We wish to develop the competences of our PhD students outside the university environment, create network working opportunities and give them careers perspectives.

By sending our PhD students for missions outside academia, we wish to ignite, participate and develop research activities in small companies but also in well established companies. Our vision is that our program shall be beneficial for the companies and organisations and also for our doctoral students. As our PhD students work on their own research project at the university, we only send them out for short projects.

University traditionally existed for teaching research and service. Now they are expanded to include translating university-based research into benefits for society.

Doyle, Cuthill, McDonald, 2014

Benefits of the program

For our PhD students:

- Gain industry work experience and explore different working environment
- Reflect on career paths

For companies and governmental bodies:

- Develop R&D within an organisation
- Discover or use the competences of a young researcher
- Engage collaborations and integrate innovation programs within the company or organisation

For NORBIS

- Disseminate knowledge
- Develop relations with local, national, or international organisations
- Strengthen the value of PhD education for our students
- Prepare our students for career development



About the projects

Our students have a broad range of competences from biology, statistics, mathematics and computer science. Depending on the organisation and also on our students interests, the projects can be individually tailored and encompass:

- Scientific or methodological consulting
- Tool development
- Teaching and training
- Project management
- Transferable skills
- Open projects

The projects for which we send our students out can be unrelated from the PhD student research project, but shall bring or strengthen either the PhD student knowledge or the company in-house knowledge.

Each project will be individually assessed with our student and the organisation, identifying the benefits gained for the PhD student and the organisation.



Organisation of the program

Every young researcher we send is formally affiliated at one of our partner university in Norway, for a period of three or four years, and is a member of NORBIS.

A project consists of a number of days over a defined duration: for examples, two days per week during two months or two consecutive weeks. The projects shall not exceed a time period of two months, as our PhD students are already working on their own research projects at the university.

The total time were the young researcher is employed by a company or an organisation can result in an extension of his/her contract at his/her own host university. Formal employees at the university, such as PhD students and post-docs, are entitled to take leave up to six months. The employment contract at the university shall be prolonged accordingly.

The expenses of the projects, such as salary or traveling, shall be covered by the company or the organisation.



Applications for projects

For each project, we require a short description of the mission. Projects can be directly submitted to NORBIS by the company of the organisation at:

contact-norbis@uib.no

Our members that are interested for a particular project can send their CVs and a motivation letter. The right candidate for the project will be chosen by the company or the organisation.

Our members can also send their own project proposal and potential company or organisation names they wish to work with for the project.

The project proposal shall be short. Key elements of the proposal shall include:

- A short description of the company
- A description of the project
- Duration and total time required for the project
- Key words of the project
- Competences required / competences acquired
- Contact person



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