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AT THE FOREFRONT
OF NANOSCIENCE

NanoLund Distinction for PhD students

The NanoLund Distinction will be awarded to PhD students within the NanoLund environment who have shown particular dedication to research, education and outreach activities, have acquired broad knowledge within nanoscience research and its societal relevance and impact, and have demonstrated research independence and leadership.



Why a NanoLund Distinction for PhD students?

Many PhD students within NanoLund go far beyond the minimum requirements for a Swedish PhD degree, in scientific breadth and cross-disciplinarity as well as in scientific leadership, outreach and communication activities. To recognize those PhD students and help them explain the breadth and quality of their education, we have initiated the ***NanoLund Distinction for PhD students***.

Requirements

The NanoLund Distinction can be awarded to students who started their PhD work after January 1, 2017, if they fulfill the requirements specified below.

Category 1, basic requirements (3/3 should be satisfied):

1. Completed the *Nanosafety course* (either the 5 ECTS credits or the 7.5 ECTS credits version). Reporting through course grade.
2. Completed the *Nanoscience breadth course* (either the 5 ECTS credits or the 7.5 ECTS credits version). Reporting through course grade.
3. Attended and presented a poster at essentially all NanoLund annual meetings while the student was associated with NanoLund. Exceptions when important reasons exist. Self reporting (including title and authors of presented posters).

Category 2, contributions to the NanoLund mission (2/3 should be satisfied):

1. Contributed substantially to education or to communication with society. Self reporting and certified by PhD advisor/other senior. Examples include:
 - Presentations for the general public, in schools or at events like the NMT-days or Kulturnatten. At least 2 presentations on different occasions.
 - Popular article on NanoLund-related research published in blog, newspaper or journal.
 - Created a popular science video or web content for NanoLund directed at the general public.
 - Outstanding contributions to education, recognized by a NanoLund Young Teacher Award or comparable.
2. Actively contributed to the leadership and/or development of NanoLund activities. Self reporting. Examples include:
 - Led a regularly occurring NanoLund subarea meeting during one year.
 - Acted as lab responsible during at least one year.
 - Served as a student representative in a NanoLund-relevant board or similar.
 - Significantly helped organize a NanoLund retreat, workshop or other major activity.
3. Developed a fabrication process, numerical program, tool or equipment, educational tutorial (including teaching material for a course), or similar, which is available and useful for several other researchers/students, including appropriate documentation. Described by the student and certified by PhD advisor/other senior.

Category 3, demonstrated research independence and cross-disciplinarity (2/4 should be satisfied):

1. Performed an international research visit or an industrial internship lasting at least two months. The student is also required to give a presentation about the visit upon returning to NanoLund. Certified by PhD advisor/other senior.
2. Acted as day-to-day PhD advisor to at least one MSc or BSc student, or acted as a mentor to a younger PhD student in the group. Certified by PhD advisor/other senior.
3. Demonstrated research independence and cross-disciplinarity by, for example, initiating a collaboration with researchers in other fields, external or in other subareas of NanoLund. Described by the student and certified by PhD advisor/other senior.
4. A grant (such as a NanoLund seedling project; a travel grant does not count) or similar obtained by the PhD student, or a main contribution made by the PhD student to a grant application (not necessarily successful) by the PhD advisor or other senior. Certified by PhD advisor/other senior.

Questions and answers

When do I need to decide that I want to pursue a NanoLund Distinction?

In principle there is no other deadline than that the application should be handed in one month before the PhD defense. However, you are strongly encouraged to discuss as early as possible with your PhD advisor if you are planning to pursue a NanoLund Distinction. Then you can together track your progress and make sure that all requirements are fulfilled. It is natural to discuss this at study plan meetings.

How do I document that I have fulfilled the requirements?

PhD students themselves are responsible for documenting that the criteria are fulfilled. This is simply done by making a list describing how each criteria is fulfilled. Details should be included, for example when and where an outreach activity was performed. On the points where it is required (see above) the PhD advisor or another other senior should certify with a signature that the criteria is indeed fulfilled. You are strongly encouraged to do this continuously throughout your PhD.

How do I apply?

The application should be handed in to NanoLund's coordinator for education (currently Martin Leijnse) at least one month before the PhD defense.

What if I am unsure if I have fulfilled some criteria?

You are welcome (and strongly encouraged) to ask NanoLund's coordinator for education if you are uncertain whether you have fulfilled, or if some planned activity will be sufficient to fulfill, some specific requirement. Do not wait until the submission deadline, ask early enough that something which is missing can still be fixed!

When do I receive the NanoLund Distinction?

The award, in the form of a diploma, will typically be handed over at the PhD defense. All awardees during a year will be congratulated at the NanoLund annual meeting and everyone who has received a NanoLund Distinction will be listed on the NanoLund webpages.

How do I benefit from receiving the NanoLund Distinction?

You are encouraged to list the NanoLund Distinction as an Award on your CV and you will be provided with a short text you can use there to describe this. We will also maintain a website that prospective employers can look up to check the requirements for the NanoLund Distinction.

Do I compete with other PhD students?

No. Any NanoLund PhD student who fulfills the requirements and submits a documented application will receive the NanoLund Distinction.

Can I be a NanoLund PhD student without pursuing the NanoLund Distinction?

Yes, absolutely, all PhD students working with nanoscience in NanoLund groups are part of NanoLund. All NanoLund events, as well as the *Nanosafety course* and the *Nanoscience breadth course*, are open to all NanoLund PhD students. There will be no special treatment of students choosing to pursue the NanoLund Distinction.

What if I am not a NanoLund PhD student?

You need to be active within NanoLund. To appear on NanoLund's lists, your group leader must be a member of NanoLund and must list you as a PhD student active within nanoscience. If you are not sure, check with your group leader or NanoLund.

Who decides who obtains a NanoLund Distinction?

A small committee will review all applications and check whether all requirements have been fulfilled. The head of the committee is the NanoLund coordinator for education (at present Martin Leijnse), and the composition of the committee will be announced on NanoLund websites.