

The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association

Plan of operations 2024

Introduction

The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association is the PhD candidate association of SULF, a politically and religiously independent union. According to the association's statutes, the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association board is tasked with:

- Monitor and promote the interests of doctoral candidates in accordance with the SULF statutes and decisions made by Congress or the SULF Board
- Recruit members
- Work with opinion building and raise awareness of SULF's positions
- Act as a referral body on doctoral candidate issues for the SULF Board
- Keep the SULF Board informed about the activities of the Doctoral Candidate Association

In addition to the statutes, the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association Plan of Operations is based on the SULF Congress period operational focus, which, in turn, is based on Vision 2030. The three priority areas for 2024-25 remain academic freedom and democracy, conditions for research and conditions for employment and salary.

The focus of 2024-25 is on creating working groups on different topics

The theme for 2023-24 was Visible rights – increasing awareness of PhD students' regarding their rights and union support. In the pursuit of enriching the doctoral experience for doctoral students on a nationwide level, the board of the Doctoral Candidate Association has identified the significance of addressing various aspects of the doctoral journey. Recognizing that a singular focus may not capture the diverse needs of our members, we have dedicated the year 2023-24 to establishing and nurturing different working groups, each concentrating on distinct but equally important topics. This multifaceted approach aims to cater to the holistic development of our doctoral candidates. It goes to say that, the content we generate, whether disseminated on platforms like Facebook or presented in person, plays a pivotal role in shaping opinions and advancing advocacy efforts. The materials we produce serve as influential tools in the ongoing endeavor to build perspectives, influence discussions, and champion causes that are integral to our mission. Whether shared digitally or presented face-to-face, these materials not only convey information but also contribute significantly to the cultivation of informed viewpoints and the promotion of key advocacy initiatives. Recognizing the far-reaching impact of our content, we remain dedicated to crafting materials that resonate, inspire, and effectively contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding our shared objectives.

Working Groups:

- Individual Study Plans:

Objective: Improve the conditions and process of creating individual study plans for each doctoral candidate.

- PhD Starter Kit:

Objective: Facilitate a smooth transition into the doctoral journey for new candidates through an updated starter kit.

- Migration Issues:

Objective: Address challenges related to migration during the doctoral journey.

- PhD Course List:

Objective: Compile and disseminate a comprehensive list of relevant courses to enrich doctoral education.

- Information Video Creation:

Objective: Develop an engaging and informative video resource for the benefit of all members.

The plan of operations is put into practice through the following four target areas:

- Board activities
- Membership activities
- Recruitment
- Advocacy and opinion building.

Board activities

The overall objectives of the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association Board of Directors are in accordance with Section 13 of the statutes as follows:

- Conduct activities in accordance with the objectives of the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association and make decisions on matters stipulated in the statutes.
- Execute decisions made by the Annual General Meeting.
- Keep minutes of all business conducted and decisions made.
- Prepare items to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- Propose the Annual Activity Plan.

These objectives will be achieved through the following activities:

Board meetings

Hold at least two face-to-face meetings and three online meetings before the 2024 AGM and produce minutes of these meetings. At least one board meeting should be a retreat covering two consecutive days and, if possible, include board training and networking opportunities at a university where the association has members.

Board training

Board members are encouraged to undergo the internet-based basic union course and take advantage of any other union-related training offered during the year. The Chair/Vice Chair will invite lecturers/trainers in connection with board meetings for educational purposes in accordance with the board's needs and interests.

Facebook

Regularly update and market our Facebook page with information related to board activities, such as current board activities.

Handover to 2024 Chair and Board

Submit spoken and written information to the forthcoming Chair and perform an evaluation at the final Board meeting to identify what works well and what can be improved for the future Board.

Membership Activities

The overall objectives of the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association membership activities are to:

- provide relevant information for members about issues concerning doctoral candidates
- disseminate information to members about SULF and the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association operations
- provide advice and support for members on union and professional issues

These objectives are to be achieved through the following activities:

Newsletter

Send out a membership e-newsletter in English by e-mail two to three times per term.

Contact Day

Arrange a Contact Day in autumn 2024 for doctoral candidates interested in The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association work. The day will be held in English and have a theme. The day will be

marketed to members and all local associations will be notified about the event. If the COVID-19 situation allows, this will be a physical event, otherwise it will be held online.

Annual General Meeting

Organize an annual general meeting of representatives during April or May 2025. This can be held as a physical, online, or hybrid meeting.

SULF Day

Promote SULF Day in October and encourage board members to participate in local activities and post their activities on Facebook. The content of the day is to be determined by the board elected in May and should reflect the year's theme.

Facebook

Regularly update and market the associations Facebook page with information linked to membership activities, such as the internal SULF website and upcoming events.

Recruitment

The overall objectives of recruitment to the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association are to:

- Increase the number of doctoral candidate members of SULF
- Recruit union officials who are doctoral candidates

These objectives will be achieved through the following activities:

Local recruitment

Visit at least two local SULF associations at the universities where the membership level among doctoral candidates is low in order to discuss how SULF locally and nationally can reach out to, and support, doctoral candidates.

SULF activities for doctoral candidates

Collaborate with the SULF central board so that doctoral candidates' interests are well represented in all SULF activities.

Benefits

Continue to work with the SULF central board and headquarters to seek and implement new kinds of benefits for doctoral candidate members and doctoral candidate union officials and disseminate information about membership benefits.

The Nominations Committee

Support the work of the 2024-25 nominations committee by inviting the members to the annual contact day and at least one board meeting during 2024 and provide support and education to the nominations committee. Ensure that there is a nominations committee for 2025.

Facebook

Regularly update and market our Facebook page with information related to recruitment, information such as membership benefits and local SULF events.

Advocacy and Opinion Building

Close cooperation between the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association, the central board, and the SULF headquarters is a prerequisite for effective and fruitful work for doctoral candidates.

The association must also work with doctoral candidates involved in the local union and with SULF local associations. Likewise, it is important that the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association works with other organizations on issues specific to doctoral candidates.

The overall objectives of the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association advocacy and public opinion-building activities are to:

- Engage in advocacy and raise awareness of the section's activity by being active in the research policy debate
- Contribute information when requested
- Act as a preparatory body for the central board on section issues
- Keep the central board informed on section activities

These objectives will be achieved through the following activities:

Published material

Publish at least two opinion articles or letters during the year.

SULF's central board

Collaborate with the SULF's central board, attend the board's meetings, and contribute a doctoral candidate perspective.

Saco Student Council

Collaborate with the Saco Student Council and attend their members' council and presidial council to contribute a doctoral candidate perspective.

SFS-DK

Meet the SFS-DK Chair or Board at least once to discuss collaboration on common issues.

Online visibility

Improve The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association overall online visibility.

Facebook

Regularly update and market our Facebook page with information related to advocacy and opinion-building activities, such as our debate articles.

The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association vision document.

The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association will collaborate with SULF office and SULF central board to update the current The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association vision document. It shall be a document that both SULF and The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association stand behind.

Dialogue Meeting

Organize a one-day dialogue meeting with representatives from the SULF board, the SULF head office, Saco Student Council, and other interested parties to discuss better ways of coordinating work on the problems with Swedish government agencies faced by international academics in Sweden. Many of the issues The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association works with are also faced by international students, post-docs, lecturers and professors, but they are often framed as The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association issues.

Budget 2024

| Area | Activity | Cost | Comments |
|--|----------------------------|-------------|--|
| Member Activities | Contact Day | 60 000 | |
| | Annual General Meeting | 25 000 | |
| | SULF-day | 5 000 | |
| | Total: 90 000 | | |
| Recruitment | Local Recruitment (x2) | 15 000 | Assuming 2 visits to local organizations |
| | Informational materials | 2 500 | |
| | Valberedning | 7 500 | |
| Total: 25 000 | | | |
| Board | Board Meetings in person | 100 000 | |
| | Board training and retreat | 75 000 | |
| Total: 175 000 | | | |
| Advocacy and Opinion Building | Saco Studentråd | 5 000 | |
| | Dialogmöte | 10 000 | |
| | Marketing | 10 000 | |
| Total: 25 000 | | | |
| <u>Total: 315 000</u> | | | |