MST Career 2014

Comprehensive two-week training program at the Faculty of Fisheries & Marine Sciences, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB)

MSTCareer is a comprehensive career skills training program at the Bogor Agricultural University complementary to existing courses that provide scientific knowledge. The course program is targeted to young researchers with potential to become internationally competitive scientists and aims to enhance skills that are required to succeed on an international level. Through MSTCareer participants will be strengthened in

- presenting their research to international audiences in a convincing, self-confident manner
- starting their international networking already at an early phase of their career
- succeeding with job applications and grant proposals
- designing experiments and research projects
- efficiently profiting from tools and resources commonly used by scientists
- their overview of international career opportunities
- their knowledge on international standards in science

Target group

MSc Students, PhD Students, and early-career scientists who aim to pursue a scientific degree or a research stay abroad.

Language of Instruction: English

Course Dates: November 3-14, 2014 (full-time; see tentative schedule below)
How to apply

Participants must have an on-going or successfully completed research project they can present and discuss during the course. A conference poster and an abstract on this project should already exist prior to the course.

Please submit the following documents as email attachment (combined in one PDF or MS WORD file) to carsten.thoms@gmail.com and madduppa@yahoo.com before October 15, 2014:

- Your contact data (full name, email address, phone number)

- Curriculum Vitae (max. 1 page)

- Motivation letter (max. half page; briefly describing your motivation to participate in the course and your plans for your future career)

- Abstract of your past/current research project (max. 1 page)

- Brief description of your past career experiences (max. half page; e.g. job applications/interviews; applications to universities/scholarships/theses supervisors; participation in conferences)

The course participants will be selected based on the above documents and brief interviews.
Course Fees

Rp 350,000 per person (please note: the course fee can be reduced or waived for highly qualified candidates who cannot afford the costs; please contact the organizers for further information)

Course Schedule

The course will be held from 9:00-17:00 during the first week and from 9:00-16:00 during the second week (for details, see below). Participants are expected to take part during the entire course time.

Additional services

Following the course, the lecturers offer written feedback on application documents and research proposals by the participants. This service is optional and free of charge for all documents produced by the course MSTCareer participants themselves.

In addition, video recordings of the participant performances (poster presentations, job interviews, oral presentations) will be made available individually to each participant.

MSTCareer Course Modules
Presentation & Networking Skills

Even if the data is sound, being able to present results and experimental methodologies of a research project in an intelligible, comprehensive and convincing manner is prerequisite to winning over an audience and to successfully establishing oneself in the international scientific community. MST Career gives the theoretical background for powerful, authentic scientific presentations. Through practical training elements the participants gain experience in applying their presentation skills, receiving direct feedback from their co-participants and the tutor.

Training elements:

- How to present a scientific poster
  - theoretical background
  - practical training: designing individual posters; giving an “elevator pitch”; presenting a poster at a conference (with feedback from the lecturers and the co-participants)
- How to give a conference talk
  - theoretical background
  - practical training: designing a PowerPoint presentation; the do’s and don’ts in an oral presentation; giving a presentation in front of the other course participants (with feedback from the lecturers and the co-participants)
- How to use a conference for personal networking

Job Applications & Grant Proposal Writing

How to convince a potential employer, scientific supervisor or funding organisation that one is the ideal person to conduct a scientific project? MST Career gives answers to this by informing about concepts and strategies of writing successful job and grant applications.
Training elements:

- **How to write a Research Abstract (e.g. to apply for a conference participation or a job)**
  - theoretical background
  - joint analysis of the Abstracts by the co-participants and the lecturers
- **How to write a job application**
  - theoretical background (CV, motivation letter, recommendation letters)
  - written feedback on the participants’ application documents (following the course)
- **Job Interview training**
  - strategies for job interviews
  - practical training of an interview situation (with feedback from the lecturers and the co-participants)
- **How to write a grant proposal**
  - theoretical background (general considerations about ideas, content, structure and strategies)
  - discussion of research project ideas of the participants (optional, if available)

**Scientific Project Design**

Already at the MSc or PhD level, students are expected to participate in the conceptualisation of their thesis projects and the experimental procedures. It is important to plan well in advance in order to not regret non-acquired data, inadequately treated samples or flawed experiment setups when analysing the results at the end of the project. At more advanced career levels, planning projects and experiments for an entire research group or even consortium makes up for a significant part of a scientists’ life. MSTCareer provides the basic concepts and strategies.

Training elements:

- How to develop hypotheses and research questions
- How to define parameters to test hypotheses
- How to design an experimental setup
- How to plan the data and sample collection for a successful statistical analysis
Studying Abroad

Internality is fundamental to a successful career in most natural & life science disciplines. A research stay abroad in a country with state-of-the-art research facilities and internationally renowned expertise can, therefore, help to boost the career prospects of a young researcher. MSTCareer gives insights into academic systems outside Indonesia and advice on how to get one’s foot in the door of academic institutions abroad.

Training elements

- Germany

  - Introduction to the German Scientific Landscape
    - Research & Research Funding Organizations
    - Graduate Schools and Research Training Groups
    - Universities and non-university research institutions
    - Excellence Initiative
  - How to find a host institute/supervisor in Germany
  - How to get a scholarship/position for studying or a research stay in Germany
  - Introduction to the scientific landscapes and scholarship options of other countries (e.g. Japan, France, …)

Good Scientific Conduct

Contributing data to the ever growing pool of knowledge created by science entails a great amount of responsibility. A successful scientific career can quickly come to an end if this is ignored and, because of scientific misconduct, the reputation of a researcher is damaged. Therefore, all prospective researchers should be aware of this responsibility. MSTCareer gives an overview over the basic of good scientific conduct.
Training elements:

- Data management
- Publishing results / authorship
- Plagiarism

Tools & Informational Resources in Science

Nowadays, thanks to the internet, a plethora of tools and resources is available to scientists. MSTCareer gives an overview and additionally presents software programmes commonly used by researchers to manage their literature data.

Training elements:

- Literature databases & software
- Social networking in science
- Scientific MailingLists & Blogs
- MOOC – Free Online Lectures from renowned universities and famous professors
- Conference databases

Contact:

Dr. Carsten Thoms

DAAD Longterm Lecturer at IPB-FPIK, carsten.thoms@gmail.com

Website: www.carsten-thoms.net
Dr. Hawis Madduppa

MST Secretary and Head of Marine Biodiversity and Biosystematics Lab at IPB-FPIK, madduppa@yahoo.com

Website:  http://hawis.staff.ipb.ac.id/

*Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions!*

Download MST Career Flyer:

[MSTCareer_Flyer_1](MSTCareer_Flyer_1)