



GALENOS Euro-PhD in Advanced Drug Delivery:

An innovative European Postgraduate Certificate for Young Pharmaceutical Scientists

A compendium

The European Community has for a considerable time fostered international collaboration in scientific education and training between European Universities. The exchange of undergraduates across member states was promoted for many years by the ERASMUS programme. More recently, the SOCRATES programme has continued and extended the sponsorship of international student exchange with EU financial support directed toward both undergraduate and postgraduate initiatives.

Founded in 1995, with part-funding under ERASMUS and then SOCRATES, the GALENOS Network in pharmaceutical sciences was formed to promote and foster the training of young researchers in the scientific area of Advanced Drug Delivery. The network has now grown in size to comprise over 50 European university partners from geographically diverse countries throughout Europe. Each partner is represented by a university department which is involved in education and training within the Pharmaceutical Sciences and is active in Advanced Drug Delivery research. In addition to the university partners, the GALENOS Network also includes among its members a number of corporate organisations from the pharmaceutical industry with all commercial levels of this sector represented. Membership of the Network is open to all pharmaceutical science departments at European universities, providing they sign a Letter of Intent supporting the aims of the GALENOS Network. Further information can be found at <http://www.galenos.net>.

One of the key aspirations of the GALENOS Network is to exploit effectively the substantial breadth and depth of European scientific expertise in Advanced Drug Delivery toward the training of graduate students within this crucial discipline. Toward this goal the partner institutions of the GALENOS Network have implemented many successful Intensive Programmes (IPs), many of them funded by SOCRATES. Each of these pan-European IPs typically represents a 10 day workshop focussing on a theme within Advanced Drug Delivery and involves not only research presentations by the world's leading scientists within the area, but also laboratory instruction to the graduate students on pertinent experimental techniques. These events have not only been instructive for the attendees but have fostered the exchange of science at the graduate level and strengthened the social and cultural platforms essential for the future vitality of pan-European scientific collaboration.

A recent GALENOS Network initiative toward interdisciplinary and intercultural training is the establishment of a formal European postgraduate certificate to be awarded through the Network and administered through the Network's co-ordinating institute (currently Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany). This certificate, entitled Euro-PhD in Advanced Drug Delivery (Euro-PhD) is intended to be uniformly recognised as verification of the awardee's knowledge and training within this discipline. It provides an additional qualification to be awarded once a candidate has successfully completed a doctoral (Ph.D.) thesis in a subject relevant to drug delivery.

The criteria that need to be fulfilled for awarding the GALENOS Euro-PhD Certificate are the following:

1. Candidates must have successfully completed a doctoral thesis on a subject relevant to the field of Drug Delivery according to the established local regulations of their home university.
2. Candidates must have published (or have accepted for publication) at least one original research paper relating to a topic in Drug Delivery in an international peer-reviewed scientific journal.
3. Candidates must have worked for at least 12 months at a research facility in a country other than the country where they have obtained their local doctoral degree.
4. In order to demonstrate additional in-depth scientific training and education, the candidates must have attended at least three approved Postgraduate Courses.

Application to enrol for the GALENOS Euro-PhD is open to all graduate students at a European university who are enrolled in doctoral studies in an area relevant to Advanced Drug Delivery at their home university. These home universities have to be members of the GALENOS Network. The Euro-PhD programme became active in October 2004 and the first certificates will be awarded to qualifying candidates in 2005.

The GALENOS Network Euro-PhD initiative is in complete harmony with the aim of the European Council (*EC Meeting Lisbon, March 2002*) to enhance further the already enviable reputation of European scientific and technological research, a major driving force for economic and social development; essential if Europe is to become the most dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. To achieve this goal highly trained research personnel will be needed that are effective in participating in multidisciplinary and multicultural research teams. The GALENOS Network's Euro-PhD concept seeks to satisfy this demand, not only with the provision of expanded training and career development opportunities within advanced drug delivery, but through the fostering of links for future international co-operation and scientist mobility across Europe. The sharing of knowledge, expertise and experience within this network and the raising of the international profile of the young researchers are highly desirable elements of the initiative.

Further information and reading: www.galenos.net
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