Agenda

DocTalent4EU Summer School on "Enhancing Communication and Negotiation Skills for PhD Candidates"

University of Limerick, Ireland,

Tuesday, May 28th to Thursday, May 30th, 2024

Module I - online March 25th to May 24th, 2024	**MODULE 1: MOOC (Massive Open Online Course)** The Doc Talent4EU MOOC on **Enhancing Communication and Negotiation Skills for PhD Candidates** is intended to provide doctoral candidates with the essential skills and knowledge required for effective communication and negotiation. The course aims to enhance participants' abilities to communicate their research effectively, negotiate effectively in academic and professional settings, and understand the role of such skills in advancing their research and careers.
Module II – on-site May 28th 2024 at University of Limerick	**MODULE 2: Inter-disciplinary Teams and "Challenges"** PhD candidates will meet face-to-face during the Summer School, and work together in inter-disciplinary groups on problems relating to effective communication and negotiation. Candidates will reflect on the online material in Module 1 and work on problem-based assignments. Participants will also map theory from Module 1 to their own research and discuss collaborative work across their respective disciplines. Group exercises will be related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and participants will examine the application of effective communication and negotiation skills to such problems.

	Two examples of this type of exercise are given below. **Example 1:** Interdisciplinary groups of PhD candidates are tasked with designing and implementing an initiative to promote gender equality in a chosen region or country, aligned with **SDG 5, Gender Equality**. The initiative should address multiple dimensions of gender inequality and empower women in the region. In this instance, PhD candidates from various disciplines, such as sociology, economics, public policy, and public health, come together to form a collaborative group and leverage their expertise to provide an initiative which promotes gender equality. **Example 2:** An interdisciplinary group of PhD candidates, is tasked with developing a sustainable transportation solution that addresses the unique challenges faced by urban areas. The solution, aligned with **SDG 13, Climate Action**, should aim to reduce carbon emissions, enhance energy efficiency, and improve accessibility while ensuring economic viability and public acceptance. In this instance, PhD candidates from fields such as engineering, social sciences, transportation planning, environmental science, and urban studies would come together to develop an integrative solution that tackles the complex challenges of achieving sustainable transportation in urban areas.
Module III – on-site May 29ᵗʰ & 30ᵗʰ 2024 at University of Limerick	**MODULE 3: HACKATHON** Industry representatives will work with academic faculty in order to provide participants with advice on project assignments that allow PhD candidates to communicate their research to non-academic audiences, build collaboration and networks with other researchers and meet and understand challenges in their own local contexts. **FORMAT:** • PhD candidates will form interdisciplinary teams (mixed-discipline groups) through a facilitated networking session. • Each team will choose one challenge to work on during the Doc Talent4EU Hackathon and develop an innovative proposal addressing the problem. • Mentors from academia and industry will provide guidance and support to the teams throughout the Hackathon.

	• Workshops and training sessions will be conducted to enhance the teams' problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, communication, and project management abilities. **Pitching Session and Judging:** • Each team will have a limited time to pitch their proposal to a panel of judges consisting of industry experts and academic representatives. • The judging criteria will emphasise the interdisciplinary approach, innovation, societal impact, and feasibility of the proposals. **Final Hackathon Presentation:** • The Doc Talent4EU Hackathon results will be presented on the final day of the Doc Talent4EU Summer School in UL on May 30th, 2024. • Winning teams will showcase their proposals to a broader audience, including stakeholders from academia, industry, and the public.