

TESE DAYS 2026

TALENTS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS IN EUROPE DAYS

PROGRAMME



Kick Off

THURSDAY 21 MAY
14:00-15:00

ONLINE ZOOM
SESSION

What to Expect and What to Prepare?

Hosts: Senior advisor Rebeca Schumacher Eder Fuao, PhD (USN) & Professor Rob Bongaardt (USN)

TESE DAYS 2026

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE
09:00-17:15

ON-SITE
CAMPUS DRAMMEN

09:00 Welcome Speech

Speaker: USN Vice-Rector for Research, Sustainability and Innovation, Heidi Ormstad

09:15 The Entrepreneurial Scholar: “Finding a Market for Your Ideas”

This talk invites you to see yourself as an entrepreneurial scholar; someone who doesn't just produce knowledge but can apply it to solve real problems. Your PhD isn't a credential. It's a toolkit for shaping your future. The question is, what do you know, and who needs that knowledge? Explore how to recognize where your ideas meet real-world needs, how to express your value in ways others understand, and how to open doors to collaboration, innovation, and new professional paths.

Speaker: Professor Daryl Powell, Chair of Production Management, USN School of Business

09:55 Break the Ice and Get to Know Your PhD Fellow: Speed Dating Session and Personal Networking

Organiser: Senior Advisor USN, Rebeca Schumacher Eder Fua, PhD

10:40 Coffee Break

11:00 Shaping Europe's Talents – Challenges for the Future

Based on Mario Draghi's report and the Union of Skills. Draghi calls for stronger frontier research, particularly through the European Research Council (ERC), and proposes dedicated schemes for excellent research institutions to boost technology transfer, start-ups, and industry collaboration. He argues that it is needed to build a stronger link between research and industry.

Speaker: Representative from The Research Council of Norway, PhD

This programme may be subject to minor adjustments.



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DAY 1

11:30 Influence Policy and Social Change

PhD in the public sector enables professionals to bridge the gap between academic research and practical policy application, driving innovation in government and non-profit organizations. It prepares individuals to tackle complex societal issues, enhances career advancement into leadership roles, and supports long-term competency building within public agencies.

Speaker: TBA

12:00 My PhD Journey

- Using and expanding your network
- Taking ownership of your development
- Preparing for life after the PhD

Speaker: Senior Advisor USN, Mary Anderson-Glenna, PhD in Microbiology. She brings over a decade of experience from roles spanning research, innovation, and industry collaboration, including positions as competence broker and researcher at Tel-Tek, QA engineer at BASF, and researcher at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. She is currently the leader of the national EU administrators' network, a network of the Norwegian Network for Administration and Research Management.

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Parallel Workshops: *Making an Impact & Develop Professional Communication Skills*

Workshop I: Communication Skills – “Presenting Yourself With a Powerful Professional Pitch”

- Learn how to create an impactful self-presentation for diverse contexts, from academic to professional environments.
- Master how to introduce your competences in an effective and clear speech.
- Building a professional narrative, how to explain who you are and what you do

Workshop holder: Project Manager Cécile Bauer, Entrepreneurship Centre, University of Rennes

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DAY 1

Workshop II: *Communication and Collaboration in Research Teams*

This workshop helps PhD candidates strengthen their ability to collaborate effectively in teams that face time pressure and varied interests. Participants will practice “clean questioning” — a non-directive, assumption-free approach to inquiry — to foster more open dialogue, inclusive participation, and mutual understanding. By applying these skills, attendees will learn how to build psychological safety and make the most of their team’s interdisciplinary potential.

Workshop holder: Professor Rob Bongaardt, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, USN

15:00 Coffee Break

15:20 Workshops Continue

16:50 Wrap Up & Summary of Day 1

Information about the evening’s activities and for tomorrow’s programme

By: Senior Advisor USN, Rebeca Schumacher Eder Fuaó, PhD

17:15 Free Time

18:30 “Bar pitch” – Pitch your PhD Story & Future Life

Location: The Student House, Drammen – Free pizza

Organized by: Luciano Netto De Lima, PhD Candidate, USN

DAY 2



This programme may be subject to minor adjustments.

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DAY 2

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE
09:00-17:00

ON-SITE
CAMPUS VESTFOLD

08:00 Bus from Campus Drammen to Campus Vestfold

08:45 Coffee & Refreshments

09:15 Lab Tours & Company Visits (TBA)

12:00 Lunch

13:00 **Parallel Workshops:** *From Research to Real-World Impact – Turning Ideas into Opportunities*

Workshop III: Entrepreneurial Spirit and Innovative Thinking

- Demonstrate proactive mindset and develop entrepreneurial spirit
- Understand the potential of entrepreneurial competence

As a researcher, your ideas carry the potential to shape industries, influence society, and spark new solutions. By developing an entrepreneurial mindset and understanding how to position your research in the world—through value creation, collaboration, and clear problem-solving—you can unlock pathways that transform knowledge into meaningful impact. By embracing an entrepreneurial mindset and daring to explore the real-world potential of your ideas, you open doors to new industries, new collaborations, and new ways of creating value.

Workshop holder: Associate Professor Thomas Brekke, USN School of Business

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DAY 2

Workshop IV: Finding a Market for Your Ideas

- Intro to Knowledge Transfer & Innovation Management: *Spin-offs, idea development patents, licensing, and collaboration models.*
- Value Proposition Design for Researchers: *What problem do you solve, for whom, and why you?*
- Industry and Stakeholder Mapping: *Who might care about your results: companies, policymakers, communities, users.*

Workshop holders: Project Manager, Aline Pereira da Silva and Senior Advisor, Inger Marie Ellingsen - Unit for Commercialisation and Innovation, USN

14:30 Coffee Break

14:50 Workshops Continue

16:30 Bus from Campus Vestfold to Campus to Drammen

17:15 Free Time

19:00 Visit, Taste & Dine at Aas Breweries (voluntary)

DAY 3

This programme may be subject to minor adjustments.

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DAY 3

FRIDAY 12 JUNE
09:00-15:00

ON-SITE
CAMPUS DRAMMEN

09:00 Panel Debate: *"Beyond the PhD - Navigating Your Career and Future Life"*

As the landscape of research and innovation continues to evolve, so do the opportunities available to PhD candidates. This panel invites you to look beyond your doctoral journey and reflect on the many paths that can shape your future. Together, we explore how to become conscious about your next steps, identify your unique skills, and discover diverse career possibilities—both within and outside academia. We also delve into the power of networking, the value of knowledge transfer, and the challenges and opportunities that emerge as you chart your professional and personal path forward.

Facilitator: Professor Gillian Warner-Søderholm, Head of Department of Business, Strategy and Political Sciences, USN School of Business

Participants: TBA

10:15 Coffe Break

10:35 Parallel Workshops: *Career Planning*

Get equipped with the tools and insights needed to navigate diverse career paths—both inside and beyond academia. Through guided reflection and hands-on exercises, you will clarify your goals, identify strengths and transferable skills, and explore opportunities across sectors. Be prepared for developing your own individual career plan and building a professional profile that reflects who you are and where you want to go. The workshops will focus on how to identify goals and find your skills beyond research. Explore opportunities in different sectors and find your professional and personal strengths and interests.

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DAY 3

Workshop V: *Shape your future and explore opportunities in different sectors*

Workshop holder: TBA

Workshop VI: *Identify goals and skills beyond research*

Workshop holder: Career advisor, Amy Tannum, Karriere Buskerud

11:50 Lunch

12:50 Workshops Continue

14:05 Coffee Break

14:20 Mission Completed: Turn Your PhD Superpower Employable

You arrived with questions - You leave with options. Not just job titles—but missions. Not just career paths—but platforms to shape the future of Europe's economy, public services, and democratic resilience.

Speaker: Professor Gillian Warner-Søderholm, Head of Department of Business, Strategy and Political Sciences, USN School of Business

14:40 Summary & Feedback

15:00 Goodbye

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