



PhDnet Agenda 2022

With the new year, the elected representatives of PhDnet have changed, forming a new Steering Group for 2022. As your Steering Group, we advocate for around 5000 doctoral researchers working within the Max Planck Society, representing DRs' interests, and deeply collaborating with the General Administration of MPS and other representative bodies.

In 2022, we have three key goals:

Improving Working Conditions

- Advocating for 4-year minimum contract duration, establishing criteria for contract extensions
- Seeking solutions to transition external stipends into contracts, so that all MPS-affiliated DRs have equal levels of compensation and security
- Encouraging DRs to take advantage of the 30 holidays that are included in their contracts

Better Support Structures

- Continuing collaboration with General Administration on smooth onboarding, including information about diversity, (prevention of) power abuse, mental health, and PhDnet
- Improvement and propagation of supervision agreements that describe expectations and obligations of DRs and their supervisors
- Consistent implementation of thesis advisory committees (TACs) including 360° supervision assessments
- Supporting our increasingly diverse academic community through initiatives like the Safer Spaces program

Enhancing Connections

- Promoting communication channels between the PhDnet Steering Group, representatives from each institute, and the larger population of DRs
- Establishing stronger links of doctoral researchers between institutes and within sections of the MPS
- Improved social media presence for PhDnet

