Dear VDSEE community,

We would first like to take this opportunity to wish all of our members a Happy New Year! Welcome to our Newsletter!

We send these to the Doc School members every 3-4 months to keep everyone updated on upcoming events and any exciting news that members of the school have to share.

If you have anything you would like to have added to our next issue, please get in touch. We’d love to feature your contributions!

Overview

- Upcoming events
- VDSEE people
- Funding opportunities & workshops

Enjoy reading our newsletter & see you soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

VDSEE Symposium

16.02.2024

We are excited to announce our first annual VDSEE Symposium! This is an opportunity for members of our Doctoral School to share their research achievements with the VDSEE-community.
Attendees can look forward to an engaging program of poster presentations and seminars delivered by VDSEE-PhD candidates, PIs and two invited keynote speakers. Members from outside our Doc School are also invited to attend. We would like to specifically encourage Masters students considering pursuing a PhD to sign up. PhD students at any stage are encouraged to sign up for a presentation. Priority for oral presentations will be given to students in the later stages of their PhD.

VDSEE Welcome Session

16.02.2024

Any students who started their PhD in the last 6 months are invited to our welcome session.

Here you will learn:
- What is the Doc School and how can it support you during your PhD
- Faculty presentation (FÖP), dissertation agreement, University-related paper work
- Financial aspects: Even though you’ve started recently and it seems in the distant future, we will discuss things to consider when your initial contract finishes but you are still working on your PhD-project
- Expectations between student and supervisor; What to do if any difficulties arise

There will be a Q&A session followed by drinks and snacks provided by VDSEE. This is a great opportunity to get to know your peers and the student representatives and we’re looking forward to seeing many of you there.

To plan this event, please register below:

Public Presentation of the PhD thesis project (FÖP)

15.03.23

The next VDSEE public presentations will take place in March.

Students who wish to present are asked to submit all documents to the Doc School no later than 29th September.

After presentations there will be refreshments and an opportunity to socialize with other VDSEE members.

Details on required documents to register can be found on our website.
**Natural History Museum Tour**

*TBD*

We are planning to hold a private tour of the Natural History Museum later this year. Attendees will be guided through the archives of thousands of objects not usually on public display. This is a unique opportunity to get up close to some of the most interesting artifacts in their collection and hear about them from the experts!

Details will be finalized later. Spaces will be limited! So, we will send an email to remind members to register.

---

**VDSEE People**

**New Faces**

We would like to welcome assistant professor who have recently began their PhD in our School. We wish them all the best with their research.

**Recent Defences**

- Kellie Sara Carlsson (Supervisor: Ron Pinhasi)
- Benjamin Wölfl (Supervisor: Joachim Hermisson)
- Janine Oettel (Supervisor: Franz Essl)
- Tatiana Lebedeva (Supervisor: Grigory Genikhovich)

Congratulations to all! We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

**Awards**

Congratulations to our current and former members who recently received awards for their outstanding research.

### IMPACT Award - Sophie Greistorfer

One of our PhD students details her IMPACT award winning project exploring the gland system of the freshwater snail Latia neritoides which could have promising applications in Biomaterials.

[More Information](#)

### Award of Excellence - Elena Ritschard

The Award of Excellence from the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research, has honoured the 40 best dissertations of the previous academic year since 2008. Nominations are made by the universities and the award ceremony takes place in December each year. The Award of Excellence, which is funded by the Student Sponsorship Programme, is worth €3,000.

Elena Ritschard (Department of Neurosciences and Developmental Biology) received the Award of Excellence for her dissertation: „Evolutionary origins
and functional impact of novel genes on cephalopod developmental and morphological innovations”.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & WORKSHOPS:

Completion Grant

The completion grants support selected VDSEE PhD-candidates in the final phase of their doctoral studies. All VDSEE PhD-candidates are eligible to apply, regardless of whether they have previously had a contract with the University of Vienna. The funding period is 4 months during which the doctoral candidates are expected to complete and submit their doctoral thesis. Successful applicants will receive a 30 hours/week University assistant Prae Doc-contract. Follow the link for more information.

Travel Grant Increase

Students can now get up to 1.500 € support for traveling to conferences or summer schools. Application on a rolling basis at least two months before the planned trip

Trainings and Workshops for Doctoral Researchers

Find out trainings and workshops offered to by the University to PhD-students

Legal notice

Publisher: Vienna Doctoral School of Ecology and Evolution
Editors: Antonia Vogel
Vienna Doctoral School of Ecology and Evolution, University of Vienna | Djerassiplatz 1, 1030 Vienna, Austria, docschool.vdsee@univie.ac.at | vds-ecology-evolution.univie.ac.at/
Data protection