

Announcement

Fifth ULLA Summer School – 2001

The Fifth ULLA Summer School, to be hosted by the School of Pharmacy, University of London, will aim to facilitate the advancement of postgraduate teaching and research in the pharmaceutical sciences. ULLA itself was founded in 1990 as the European University Consortium for Pharmaceutical Research, with the initials “ULLA” representing the founding institutions of the Faculty of Pharmacy (Uppsala University), the School of Pharmacy (University of London), and the Leiden/Amsterdam Centre for Drug Research. Subsequently joining were the Royal Danish School of Pharmacy and the Faculty of Pharmacy, Université de Paris-Sud in 1996 and 1998, respectively.

Under the auspices of ULLA, these six institutions comprise a distinct pharmaceutical body whose goal is to provide a united platform for the facilitation of research and the administration of academic support for European postgraduate students of pharmacy. ULLA provides young researchers from participating institutions with the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with those conducting research in similar fields. It thus encourages the future academics in pharmacy to establish a strong network of colleagues throughout Europe. Such a network will allow for the swift and easy dissemination of both research results and methodological advancements alike. Ultimately, ULLA seeks to

produce competent postgraduates who will furnish the ranks of both industry and academia.

To achieve these objectives, ULLA activities have so far included the exchange of undergraduates, postgraduates, and staff members. ULLA also provides funding for conferences and workshops, and organises staff meetings in order to encourage research exchange and collaboration. The biannual Summer School, however, remains ULLA’s main institutional vehicle.

The inaugural Summer School was hosted by London in 1993, followed thereafter with Schools in Uppsala (1995), Leiden/Amsterdam (1997) and Copenhagen (1999). The Fifth ULLA Summer School for postgraduate students will take place at the School of Pharmacy, University of London, from 22 August to 31 August 2001.

ULLA Summer Schools highlight the integration of the postgraduate teaching and research programmes of the participating institutions. The PhD is an important feature of all six institutions and the ULLA Summer School has, therefore, become an integral part of the study programme for all PhD students in the first two years of their training. There are also a number of places reserved for young researchers from industry.

There will be upwards of 35 courses on offer in London, lasting from a half-day to two-days in duration. The level of the courses themselves

will vary: students may choose from courses distinguished as "enabling" (*i.e.* scientific writing), "general" (*i.e.* statistics), or "advanced" (*i.e.* research specific). Instructors and course leaders are selected from the ULLA institutions, from other institutions of higher education, and from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. The courses will cover a broad spectrum of disciplines and subjects within the pharmaceutical sciences. ULLA recognises that the increasing demand for expertise within the methodologically diversified and technologically

evolving pharmaceutical disciplines can best be satisfied by bringing together established experts and young researchers for the co-development of novel methods. Moreover, industrial representation at the School will foster student insight into contemporary economic and managerial concerns. As future employers of many postgraduates, the School will feature a symposium featuring expert speakers from industry. A compulsory poster session and several social events will round out the School's activities.

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