INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON AGEING

ISSA

Ancona (Italy)
10th-14th September 2012

- Population ageing is unprecedented, without parallel in human history — and the twenty-first century will witness even more rapid ageing than did the century just past.
- Population ageing is pervasive, a global phenomenon affecting every man, woman and child — but countries are at very different stages of the process, and the pace of change differs greatly. Countries that started the process later will have less time to adjust.
- Population ageing has profound implications for many facets of human life.


GOAL & FOCUS

The International Summer School on Ageing (ISSA) aims at building capacity by offering graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in ageing research the opportunity to enhance their chances of starting a career in their field, and to network with emerging researchers and academic mentors from different countries. Its design reflects multifaceted perspectives of the ageing process and has a strong interdisciplinary and international focus. It is organised in seven learning modules that consider both relevant content and methodological issues in the field of ageing research. The first summer school will have a specific focus on longitudinal studies.

AIMS

The ISSA aims at offering PhD students and post-doctoral fellows involved in ageing research, and those doing post-graduate training that includes a focus in this field, an advanced training programme that crosses disciplines, sectors, institutions and geography, by addressing main research priorities and methodologies in the following areas:

- Fundamental research
- Biomedical research
- Psychological research
- Population and socio-economic research
- Clinical and geriatric research
- Health, social and long-term care research
- Technological and environmental research
Participants are given the opportunity to:

1. Gain an understanding of processes critical to carry out high quality scientific research as well as professional work in the field of ageing, through plenary and practical sessions;
2. Examine multidisciplinary collaboration, grant preparation, peer review, communication, knowledge transfer, professionalism and ethics in the context of research on ageing;
3. Network with other emerging researchers in ageing and with leading academic mentors from across the world.

This is achieved through a joint scientific collaboration among the National Institute of Health and Science on Aging - INRCA (Italy), the University of British Columbia (Canada) and the Lund University (Sweden).

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
The ISSA addresses PhD students and post-docs, professionals in post-doc graduate clinical training that includes a programme of research in ageing. Candidates to the Summer School should have already some experience in gerontological research. Candidates’ scientific background can be in the following disciplines: 1) biomedicine; 2) psychology; 3) sociology; 4) economics; 5) demographics; 6) medicine/geriatrics; 7) technology and environment (e.g. architecture, engineering, geography etc.).

Up to 20 students or post-docs will be accepted for the programme, with their interests covering one or more of the main background areas above. The programme organisers will aim for a well-balanced mix of students and mentors to strengthen the interdisciplinary focus of the Summer School.

ORGANISATION OF SINGLE MODULES
Each module is structured as follows:
- **First part** (2 hours): lessons + question and discussion time
- **30-minute break**
- **Second part** (1.5 hours): working groups + exercises

PROGRAMME

**Sunday, 9th September**
- Arrival and welcome

**Monday, 10th September**
- **MODULE 1**: Introduction to ageing research and presentation of participants
- **MODULE 2**: Mentoring session: “discussing your own research”

**Tuesday, 11th September**
- **MODULE 3**: Study design and qualitative research methods
- **MODULE 4**: Study design and quantitative research methods

**Wednesday, 12th September**
- **MODULE 5**: Potentials and pitfalls of longitudinal studies in ageing research
- Free afternoon and social event

**Thursday, 13th September**
- **MODULE 6**: Writing a research article: principles and techniques (including exercises)
- **MODULE 7**: Applying for research funding: principles and techniques (including a “mock” peer-review exercise)

**Friday, 14th September**
- **MODULE 8**: Knowledge translation and ethical issues
- Closing plenary

LOCATION

The first edition of the ISSA will be hosted by INRCA in one of its premises in Ancona, city located in the Marche Region, Italy (for further information about the area: [http://en.turismo.marche.it](http://en.turismo.marche.it)).
COORDINATION

INRCA Coordinators
Dr. Fabrizia Lattanzio (INRCA, Scientific Director) and Dr. Giovanni Lamura (INRCA)

Mentors

- **Prof. Kenneth Abrahamson**
  Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research, Sweden
  - **Education | Workplace Research**

- **Prof. Antonio Cherubini**
  National Institute of Health and Science on Aging (INRCA), Italy
  - **Medicine | Geriatrics | Clinical Studies**

- **Prof. Doorly Deeg**
  VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands
  - **Epidemiology**

- **Prof. Carol Jagger**
  Newcastle University, United Kingdom
  - **Epidemiology**

- **Prof. Anne Martin-Matthews**
  University of British Columbia, Canada
  - **Socio-economics**

- **Prof. Eline Slagboom**
  Leiden University, Netherlands
  - **Biogerontology**

- **Prof. Torbjörn Svensson**
  Lund University, Sweden
  - **Socio-psychology | Environmental Studies**

Support and logistics

Scientific support: Francesco Barbabella (f.barbabella@inrca.it); Carlos Chiatti (c.chiatti@inrca.it); Mirko Di Rosa (m.dirosa@inrca.it)

Logistics: Laura Cassetta (l.cassetta@inrca.it)

DEADLINES

- **15th April**: Deadline for submitting applications
- **30th April**: Communication to applicants of selection outcomes
- **31st May**: Deadline for registration
- **10-14 September**: ISSA

TUITION FEES

Participants are asked to pay a 200€ registration fee. The ISSA will cover the following costs:

- **Travel**: lowest price economy return airline ticket or bus transportation from the applicant's home town or academic institution to the ISSA 2012 location, including ground transfers. Local participants who prefer to drive will be reimbursed for mileage provided the cost does not exceed that of lowest economy airfare or bus transportation.

- **Accommodation**: it will be arranged and paid for by the organisers of the ISSA 2012 for five nights (Sunday, September 10, through Friday, September 14).

- **Meals**: three meals per day will be provided for the full duration of the Programme. Participants will be responsible for any additional meals/transportation/hotel and incidental expenses.

FUNDING & ENDORSEMENTS

The first edition of ISSA is funded by the Italian National Institute of Health and Science on Aging (INRCA). Endorsement has been granted by the Institute of Aging of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR); it has been also asked to the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics – European Region (IAGG-ER), the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society (EUGMS), the European Research Area and Canada (ERA-CAN), the Italian Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics (SIGG) and the Italian Longevity Network.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants will have to use the application form downloadable here. The filled in applications will have to be sent by April 15th to the ISSA secretariat at: issa@inrca.it.

An application review committee will select a limited number of students, based on eligibility criteria, research interests, range of disciplinary backgrounds and national and institutional distribution. All applicants will be notified of the committee’s decisions by April 30th.
For further information please contact:
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Endorsed by