

SENSE PhD Council

1. Introduction

The SENSE PhD Council (SPC) represents all PhD students involved with the different research institutes that make up SENSE. The main aim of the council is making sure the PhD students are represented within all parts of SENSE; connecting students with each other and with the different research institutions; and supporting students during their PhD by facilitating access to relevant academic networks. The SPC consists of a group of motivated and cooperative PhD candidates that represent the PhDs at the different institutes within SENSE.

2. Themes

The three themes that define our goal are:

Strengthen the SENSE PhD network

Interacting with PhDs from different institutes and backgrounds can lead to new ideas and fresh ways of looking at things. Having a wide network is also valuable for building a career in academics.

Represent the SENSE PhDs

PhDs are impacted by decisions that are made regarding the operation of SENSE. That's why the PhDs are represented via the SPC. The SPC acts as a first point of communication towards the SENSE board and committees on behalf of the PhDs, and as a first point of communication towards the PhDs on behalf of the SENSE organization.

Support PhD research

PhDs can struggle with similar issues. This can be directly related to the subject matter or research methods, but also related to for example teaching or work-related stress. The SPC can support in various ways, from connected people working on similar topics to sharing best practices.

3. Goals

1. **Strengthen the PhD network**

- 1.1. Promote the activities and achievements of the members
- 1.2. Foster face to face interaction

1.3. Establish an active Alumni network

2. Represent the SENSE PhDs

2.1. Be the first point of contact for PhDs

2.2. Inform the PhD students of any relevant developments within SENSE

2.3. Make sure relevant courses are offered

3. Support PhD research

3.1. Promote active connections between people working on similar topics

3.2. Share best practices on work related issues PhDs can struggle with

4. Organization

The SPC aims to consist of at least one representative of each of the connected SENSE institutes. As such, each member has the primary goal of representing the PhDs of their institute within SENSE, as well as representing SENSE at their institute.

The SPC has permanent representation in the SENSE board, the Education Committee and the Research Committee. For each of these entities, an SPC member will act as permanent representative.