2nd circular - pre-register for the PhD School now!

COMMONS - LINXS - SoftComp

Combined PhD Summer School & Workshop on

"Phase separation, condensation, and self-association in 2 and 3 dimensions – from basic principles to applications in life sciences"

August 24 - 26 and 26 - 28, 2026, in Lund, Sweden

Venue: LINXS @ The Loop (https://www.linxs.se/how-to-get-to-linxs)

What to expect

Liquid-liquid phase separation, complex coacervation and other related phenomena are currently in the focus of diverse communities such as life sciences, biophysics, materials and food science. Understanding the underlying mechanisms remains challenging, and requires a concerted experimental, theoretical and simulation effort using a cross- and interdisciplinary approach. Here we aim to bring together a representative selection of the scientific communities concerned and approach the topic 'Phase separation' from a variety of perspectives (liquid-liquid, liquid-solid, liquid-liquid crystalline; complex coacervation etc.) and in different systems (proteins, peptides, surfactants, polyelectrolytes, polymers, colloids, membranes, cells, etc.).

The event comprises a **PhD Summer School (2.5 days, 1.5 ECTS; August 24-26)** reserved for PhD students and young postdocs (max. 35 participants), followed by a Workshop (2 days; August 26-28) open to the entire interested scientific community (max. 100 participants).

Pre-registration for the PhD Summer School is open now under:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/5dt15d9SCD

Deadline for pre-registration: March 15th, 2026

This course is free of charge (meals included) and open to max. 35 students. PhD students have highest priority, and seats for them will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis combined with the assessment of the motivation text asked for during the pre-registration process. Young postdocs are also encouraged to apply, but will only be enrolled if there are free seats available (or put on a waiting list). All applicants will be informed in the beginning of April about their acceptance status.

PhD students will have to present a poster on their own research at the PhD School in order to receive the 1.5 ECTS.

Tentative schedule, PhD Summer School:

time	Monday, 24.8.	Tuesday, 25.8.	Wednesday, 26.8.
09:00 – 10:30	*Welcome* **L1** *(Introduction)*	**L5** *(Phase separation in anisotropic colloids)*	**L9** *(Phase separation in membranes)*
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	**L2** *(Phase separation in colloids)*	**L6** *(Phase separation in polymers; Arrested spinodal decomposition)*	**L10** *(Computer simulations and patchy colloids/proteins)*
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch; end of **PhD school**
13:30 – 15:00	**L3** *(Phase separation in compact globular proteins)*	**L7** *(Complex coacervation in polyelectrolytes – fundamentals & applications)*	
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	Coffee break	
15:30 – 17:00	**L4** *(Phase separation in IDPs)*	**L8** *(Phase separation in biology)*	
17:00 – 18:00	Round table discussions, Q&A	Round table discussions, Q&A	
18:00 – 20:00	Light dinner & poster session **A**	Light dinner and poster session **B**	

Main organization: Anna Stradner, anna.stradner@chem.lu.se

Registration & abstract submission for the Workshop (26.-28.8.) will open soon. Stay tuned for more information to be distributed via the COMMONS, LINXS and SoftComp channels.