



PhD Internship Program

PhD students in Norwegian biotechnology have the opportunity to explore career options outside academia through **Digital Life Norway's Internship Program**.

Since the first round in 2020, the annual program has selected 24 motivated PhD students from Norwegian universities to three-month internships in established firms, start-ups, and other non-academic organizations.

While most placements have been in Norway, the program is expanding its network of host organizations internationally.

The internship program is part of Centre for Digital Life Norway's (DLN) ambition to facilitate collaboration between academia and the industry sector to increase exchange of knowledge and accelerate innovation.



THE PROGRAMME SETUP

PhD students spend three months at a non-academic host organization to build skills, networks, and accelerate innovation in biotechnology.

PhD students stay employed by their home university but get permission to leave during the internship.

Centre for Digital Life Norway (DLN) pays the salary.

Contract signed by the PhD student, the host organisation and the home institution.

IP generated during the internship stays with the host organisation.

PhD students get up to 40.000 NOK in support for travel and accommodation.

Who benefits from the PhD internship program?

- **Universities:** tighter links to industry and a push towards culture change in career development
- **PhD students:** industry-relevant training; broadening of experiences; industry contacts and networks; potential recruitment
- **Norwegian biotech:** building bridges between academic and non-academic partners; improved mobility between sectors
- **Industry partners:** highly motivated and skilled workforce for a three-month period without financial costs; new perspectives; potential recruitment; contact with academia

How does the internship work?

Recruitment.

The Centre for Digital Life Norway (DLN) invites applications from PhD students who work on DLN's portfolio of 40+ biotechnology projects and/or are members of the DLN Research School. Students' scientific backgrounds range from microbiology, molecular biology, neuroscience, medical imaging, aquaculture and food science, to mathematics, statistics, molecular modelling, and more.

Project matchmaking

Potential host organization send in proposals of projects that are relevant both for the organization and the PhD students. Selected students are given the opportunity to choose among these project proposals.

Joining the host organization.

During the three-month internship, students join in the daily activities and work routines of the host organizations, while working on defined projects that support them in gaining biotechnology knowledge and developing their career.

The internship is fully financed by DLN. The students will keep their employment at their home institution during the internship, and take leave from their PhD position. Their contract of employment is extended corresponding to the time spent in the company. Formal agreements are signed between the university, the PhD student, and the host organization.

The agreement guarantees that the host organization will keep the intellectual property rights for all results produced during the project, and the PhD student has the same duty of confidentiality as all other employees in the organization. Both interns and host organizations provide feedback to DLN during and after the internship to evaluate the program's performance.

About Digital Life Norway

The Centre for Digital Life Norway is a national centre for biotechnology and digital life science research, education and innovation. Funded by the Research Council of Norway (2016-2026), the centre is a collaborative project between the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), the University of Oslo (UiO), the University of Bergen (UiB), the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Oslo University Hospital (OUS), SINTEF and UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

