Training Assessment: Advanced Modules I in DSM January 2019

Following the Project Meeting in DSM, a questionnaire was submitted to the PhD Students to have a feed-back on both the practical organization of the Advanced Modules I and on the content of the courses given.

1. Practical organization

93% students found the accommodation chosen for the event “excellent”. The transport to and from the venue was also seen positively with 80% rating is as “excellent”.

66,5% of participants rated the schedule as “excellent”. One rated it as “bad”. Asking for additional information, it was explained that he/she put "poor" because: “as we discussed there [during the meeting], I would like to put ESR presentations before Advanced Modules. In this way, we will be more focused on the given lecture and also if we have PPT in advance, we could prepare them better”.

80% found the timing “excellent” and the other 20% found it “good”.

Lunch breaks were also perceived positively by all participants (93% excellent and 7 % good).

Lab visits were positively rated too with 92% of excellent and 8 % of good views.

All participants found they received sufficient information regarding the organization of the event and no one needed any additional information.

2. Content of the Advanced Modules I

All students agreed that the courses covered the basics of their field. No student would have liked another subject to be given that was not presented during these Modules.

Nearly all students agreed to say they received the course material needed to follow the meeting. Only one students replied negatively to this.

Most students would prefer printed course material (80%).

They all agreed that the courses followed a “good timing”. Following their answers, the ideal time for a course would be 1h. They underline that they had sufficient time to ask questions after each course.

The choice of lecturers and visiting experts was seen as "pertinent" considering the topics covered in these Advanced Modules.

Requests were minimal and only one of them found that his solicitation was not taken into account in the way he would have liked but no additional explanation was given.

3. Suggestions for the next Advanced Modules

The following suggestions were made at the end of the questionnaire:

- "To have the accommodation in the same place of the meeting, saving time in the movements"
- "Put training modules after presentation to be more focused"
- "More reading materials"
- "Thank you very much, everything was perfect. A minor request/suggestion for the next meeting is the following: The projector at the Bilderberg meeting hall was slightly smaller (or because of the settings). You could maybe ask for a bigger projector next time"
- "It is better to tell us which kinds of instruments we will work on so that we can learn some relevant knowledge in advance"
- "Hands-on experiments"
- "I am not part of this network but I think the timing gap between the meeting is too short. I mean students should have enough time for research and experiment between each meeting and then propose them. At least 4 months! Second one, I suggest the schedule contains of students and professors presentation each day because when all them present separately, it is a little boring!".

4. Subjects for the next Advanced Modules

The following ideas were given as specific subjects that could be covered during the next Advanced Modules:

- "Polymer physics on non-linear rheology"
- "I suggest to cover other techniques which are coupled with nonlinear rheology to better understand scattering techniques"
- "Focus on how to read and interpret the results, in order to be able to follow the presentations better"

- "The subjects are (i) chain stretch, possibly reducing the lifetime of transient bonds, (ii) non-Gaussian effects, determining strain hardening behavior, (iii) separation of chain stretch from chain orientation due to topological constraints (typically observed in entangled systems, while normally ignored in models of crosslinked networks)"
- Lectures on non-linear rheology applied on simple networks and double networks to have ideas about how it works on these systems and which kind of measurement are meaningful to characterize them".

5. Attention points for the next meeting

Following the results of this questionnaire, the following items need to be taken into consideration for the next meeting.

- Lab:
  - Students would appreciate more hands-on experiments
  - Have information in advance on the instruments that will be used in experiments
- Practical side:
  - Enquire on the size of the projector available in the conference/lecture room
  - Have the Training Modules after the individual ESR presentations so they can be more focused on the courses
  - Give more reading material related to the courses
  - Have a minimum distance between the accommodation and the venue
- Subjects for Advanced Modules:
  - Polymer physics on non-linear rheology
  - Covering other techniques which are coupled with nonlinear rheology to understand scattering techniques
  - A course on how to read and interpret the results
  - Other suggestions: (i) chain stretch, possibly reducing the lifetime of transient bonds, (ii) non-Gaussian effects, determining strain hardening behavior, (iii) separation of chain stretch from chain orientation due to topological constraints

(typically observed in entangled systems, while normally ignored in models of crosslinked networks)

- Lectures on non-linear rheology applied on simple networks and double networks to have understand about how it works on these systems and which kind of measurement are meaningful to characterize them.