Extension of PhD project deadlines – joint procedure based on an individual assessment

AU has decided on a joint procedure for handling the challenges students are facing in relation to completing their PhD projects as a direct consequence of COVID-19, including the physical shutdown of AU.

This joint procedure is based on the political agreements on the phased reopening of the country, in addition to the ‘Circular on the agreement on the possibility of extending temporary employment contracts, as a consequence of delays occurring in connection with COVID-19’.

The objective of the procedure is to ensure a common point of departure for all PhD students at AU, while at the same time granting the individual graduate school the flexibility to handle the challenges in individual students’ PhD projects in the most appropriate way.

The joint procedure applies to PhD students whose progress has been directly affected by COVID-19, including the physical shutdown of AU that began on 13 March 2020:

- AU must ensure that enrolled PhD students are able to finish their PhDs, and that the quality of the PhD project lives up to applicable academic requirements for a PhD.

- A delay in progress towards the PhD degree must be a direct consequence of COVID-19, including the physical shutdown of AU.

- All PhD projects that are or may be delayed must be considered individually and through individual dialogue with the principal supervisor and with a statement from the programme committee chair/PhD programme directors.

- The nature of the delay in the PhD project must be described, and in the evaluation of the extension, every effort must be made to adjust the individual PhD project so as to allow the student to complete their project as planned.

- If the PhD project cannot be completed without an extension of the deadline, the amount of additional time to be granted must be calculated on an individual basis.
To apply for an extension of the deadline, see the websites of the individual graduate schools:
- Graduate School, Arts: phd.arts.au.dk/about-us/the-graduate-school/
- Aarhus BSS Graduate School: bss.au.dk/en/research/phd/
- Graduate School of Health: phd.health.au.dk/
- Graduate School of Science and Technology: https://phd.scitech.au.dk/for-phd-students/

If you have questions about the above, contact the head of the relevant graduate school:
- Graduate School of Science and Technology: Jes Madsen (jesm@au.dk)
- Graduate School of Health: Helene Nørrelund (hwn@au.dk)
- Aarhus BSS Graduate School: Per Baltzer Overgaard (pbo@au.dk)
- Graduate School, Arts: Anne Marie Pahuus (amp@au.dk)