

## Temporary appendix to GSA guidelines on Covid-19

### ECTS credits

Due to the Covid-19 situation, it may be difficult for PhD students enrolled at the Faculty of Arts to earn the ECTS credits required (approx. 30 in total) according to section 7(2), second sentence, of the PhD Order. The reason for this may be that fewer conferences are held for which students at Arts can be awarded up to 10 ECTS credits, or that PhD courses are cancelled or postponed. The Graduate School strives to ensure that in-person teaching of PhD courses at Arts for which students are awarded ECTS credits can still take place on campus, wherever possible, or that they are converted into online activities. The faculty is also working to develop new concepts for virtual conferences. If PhD students, in consultation with their supervisors and the relevant PhD programme director, despite the above, is unable to meet the ECTS requirement, it is possible to submit an application for dispensation to the Graduate School (contact the relevant PhD administrator):

<https://phd.arts.au.dk/about-us/programmes/>

### PhD dissertations and defences

The administration is working from home, and PhD dissertations can therefore only be submitted/processed in digital form (PDF). Read more about the formalities on the website of the Graduate School: <https://phd.arts.au.dk/phd-students/phdstudies/phddissertation/>

When campus is not in lockdown, the faculty prioritises in-person teaching for Bachelor's and Master's degree students, which puts a lot of pressure on room allocation. Furthermore, most international assessors cannot travel to Denmark due to Covid-19. Therefore, the faculty has decided that all PhD defences at Arts will be conducted online until June 2021. If the Covid-19 situation changes for the better, the decision may be reassessed.

### Long-term stays abroad of significance to the PhD degree programme

The Covid-19 situation may prevent PhD students from participating in activities abroad, including long-term stays in connection with changes of research environment and field studies, partly due to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' recommendations not to leave Denmark, and partly due to lockdowns at international universities.

If PhD students, despite the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' recommendations, intend to go abroad in connection with a long-term research stay, they must enter into a specific agreement with the relevant head of school/external employer and the head of graduate school (contact the PhD administration). When travelling to countries in the orange category, AU has a legal obligation to cover the costs of travel insurance, but any other insurance costs must be covered by the relevant school/external employer. Therefore, the decision made by the head of school/external employer must be based on a risk assessment, and this must be done in good time before the planned departure.

PhD students can also, in consultation with their supervisors, choose a type of virtual stay instead of a change of research environment abroad. Just like AU, many international universities offer virtual activities in which guest PhD students are welcome to participate. In addition, it is possible to participate in virtual meetings, courses and conferences, which will strengthen the PhD student's international network.

The Graduate School is open to alternative plans, and an agreement can be made with the principal supervisor and the PhD programme director. Such plans must be registered in the PhD Planner (an explanatory PDF file uploaded to the PhD student's PhD plan).

The Graduate School has drawn up a generic letter in connection with virtual research stays abroad which supervisors can use to help PhD students when contacting international universities/partners.

You are welcome to contact the PhD administration if you need help:

<https://phd.arts.au.dk/about-us/contact/>