

Message sent to Arts PhD students and supervisors 28th October 2020:

“According to my latest message in September, I would like to give you an update, and once again, thank you for all the efforts that have been made since the university closed down on 12 March 2020. I am highly aware that you are all effected by the covid-19 situation, and all parties at the Graduate School are doing the very best to help you in the best way possible.

Firstly, I would like to give you a status on your applications for extensions due to the covid-19 lockdown. By 15 September 2020, the Graduate School at Arts had received 47 applications from PhD students enrolled at Arts (there are approx. a total of 280 enrolled PhD students at Arts). So far, the Graduate School has given a total of 27 extensions (varying from 2 weeks to 3.5 months). All applicants should by now have received replies (sent to e-Boks/AU mail) yesterday on 27 October 2020. Some applicants have already had their applications processed earlier, as their enrolments were set to expire during the summer/early autumn.

In processing the applications, emphasis has been focused on being able to grant extension to those applicants who have been seriously affected in relation to lack of empirical data as stated in the PhD plan. In few cases, applicants who have been exceptionally affected by private circumstances have also been granted an extension.

As stated in my last update, research education consists of dissemination, supervision, international research stays, ECTS-giving courses that are all elements that the Graduate School can waiver to some extent. Do not hesitate to contact the Graduate School if you need help on what to do, for instance if you are not able to obtain enough ECTS points or complete research stays abroad.

The five Graduate Schools at AU work closely together by exchanging knowledge/information, but please note that the individual Graduate School processes the evaluations.

The ‘Circular on the agreement on the possibility of extending temporary employment contracts, as a consequence of delays occurring in connection with COVID-19’:

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/retsinfo/2020/9273> will be in force into 2021, so **enrolled PhD students are still able to apply for covid-19 extensions** for the period from 13 March 2020 (when the lockdown started). Please read the update on our website where you will also find information on how to apply: <https://phd.arts.au.dk/>

At Arts, PhD students are permitted to submit their dissertation even after the end of enrolment and employment. Therefore, if your enrolment has expired and you are delayed with your dissertation, you may address your department/school (‘institut’) with a view to making a local agreement to maintain access to office space and to IT systems for a period after expiration of your enrolment. You are welcome to submit your dissertation at any time for assessment.

Secondly, I would like to update you regarding **PhD defences at Arts**. Since the lockdown, Arts has held 25 PhD defences online (using Zoom). At Arts, there has been a lack of available auditoriums/rooms as BA- and MA teaching on Campus have been prioritised. In addition,

international assessment members are often met with entry restrictions that mean that they cannot travel to DK. There are pros and cons to this, but overall many PhD students, supervisors and assessors have been positive about online defences, where audiences from all over the world, also have been able to attend.

Due to the above reasons, The Faculty Management has therefore decided that all PhD defences will carry on as 100 % online defences on Zoom for the rest of 2020 and maybe well into 2021.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Graduate School, if you have any questions:

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

Best wishes,

Anne Marie Pahuus

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