
INFORMATION FOR PhD APPLICANTS

THE PhD PROGRAMS AT THE SCHOOL OF CULTURE AND SOCIETY



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WELCOME TO THE INFORMATION MEETING ABOUT PHD-APPLICATIONS FOR HAC, TIF AND ASGR

- **History, Archaeology and Classical Studies (director: Jeppe Büchert Netterstrøm)**
- **Theology, History of Ideas and Philosophy (director: Jakob Bek-Thomsen)**
- **Anthropology, Global Studies and the Study of Religion (director: Lisanne Wilken)**
- Other programs at arts:
 - Art, Literature and Cultural Studies
 - ICT, Media, Communication and Journalism
 - Language, Linguistics, Communication and Cognition
 - Learning and Education
 - Didactics

AGENDA:

- What kinds of phd-positions are available;
- Enrollment models;
- Funding;
- Applications;
- Assessment;
- Application deadline;

AVAILABLE PHD-SCHOLARSHIPS

▪ **Open calls**

- You propose the topic and develop the project;
- It is a good idea to contact a potential supervisor to discuss your ideas with;

> **Specific calls**

- > You apply for a position in a project someone else have defined;
- > You still propose a topic and develop a project – but within an existing framework.
- > At CAS there is one specific call for the March deadline:
- > Postconflict speculations: Imagistic speculations in the shadow of Russia (5+3);
- > It is a good idea to contact the PI for more information before developing a proposal

PhD ENROLLMENT MODELS

- > 4+4:
 - > 60-90 ECTS Passed on the MA level at the time of enrolment (Less at the time of application)
 - > 1 year MA degree from e.g. an English or Dutch university
 - > 3.5-4 years of writing dissertation

- > 5+3:
 - > MA degree (at the time of enrollment) 3 years to write dissertation

- > A PHD position involves education and work
 - > Research project → PhD dissertation
 - > Departmental work – 840 hours
 - > Courses – 30 ECTS on the phd-level + for 4+4: finishing the MA
 - > Conferences, workshops, seminars – locally, nationally, internationally
 - > Change of research environment (2-12 months)

4+4 PhD ENROLLMENT MODEL

> Part A:

- > 1,5 - 2 years studies depending on already obtained ECTS at MA studies
- > Double SU-stipend ("dobbelt SU-klip")
- > Departmental work (210/280 h)
- > Studies abroad (optional)
- > Qualifying evaluation (after MA thesis is completed)
- > → Continue enrolment part B or MA degree?

> Part B

- > Enrollment as PhD stipend with salary
- > 2 years studies: research, PhD courses, knowledge dissemination
- > Departmental work (560 hrs: teaching, research management, examination)
- > Studies abroad (if not at A level) 2-12 months consecutively
- > 30 ECTS PhD courses (during A+B)
- > PhD dissertation and public defense

FUNDING

- › You can apply for a scholarship from the Phd-School => Open Call
- › You may apply for a specific call based on external funding
- › You may be recruited into an externally funded project
- › These may be funded by the Danish Independent Research Council, the Danish Innovation fund, the Carlsberg foundation etc.
- › External partners (university college, museum, church etc.)

THE APPLICATION (NEXT DEADLINE MARCH 15, 2024)

Application guide: <http://phd.arts.au.dk/applicants/how-to-apply/>

(general rules <http://phd.arts.au.dk/rules-and-forms/rules-and-regulations/>)

- **Motivation**
- CV (e.g. degrees, academic publications)
- Diploma and transcripts of records (e.g., credit transfer)
- Schedule of forthcoming examinations (only 4+4)
- Proof of language skills => skills in English (<https://phd.arts.au.dk/applicants/english-test>)
- **Project description**
- Budget details (If the project requires more than a workstation and travel funds 40.000 dkr)
- **Timetable**
- Other information to consider (e.g. proficiency in other languages if relevant, knowledge of particular methods if relevant, diplomas of relevance).

After the deadline, you cannot submit anything but the MA diploma

THE APPLICATION

Motivation:

The motivation is often our first impression of you, this is where we get an idea of who you are, why you want to become a phd-student and what kind of contribution you think your phd-project will make.

Think of the motivation as a kind of job application: it should not be a summary of your project; it should not be a summary of your CV; it should be a presentation of you as a future scholar, your motives for wanting to do research and how you and your project can contribute to a department, a research area or a research environment;

Make your motivation count!

THE APPLICATION

The CV

- › Your Curriculum Vitae should contain relevant information, e.g your degree (Bachelor and Master level), *relevant* work experience (e.g. teaching, research assistant, exhibitions, writings etc.)
- › A list of academic publications and presentations if you have any.

You may attach a summary of academic production. If you attach an actual publication, it will be deleted from the application.

THE APPLICATION

The time plan

All applications **MUST** contain a time plan. It needs to be the one you can find on the Website. If not your project will be disqualified!

In the time plan you get a chance to show that you can think through the project from beginning to end and that you can position yourself within a particular department. Use it!

Which course would you like to teach?

Which phd-courses do you anticipate will help you complete the phd?

Where do you want to go abroad?

Etc

THE PROPOSAL

The Proposal

12000 characters including spaces (equals 5 pages);

The proposal should be based on an original idea that will contribute to the production of knowledge – theoretical, empirical, methodological;

Make sure your proposal has:

A clear problem statement: what do you want to research?

An explanation regarding why the research is relevant and important to do now (the smoking gun!)

Make sure that you

demonstrate familiarity with existing research within the field

And have a clear explanation for choice of methods, material and theoretical framework

THE PROPOSAL

Make sure that you make clear how your project contributes (with knowledge, with methods, with theoretical development) to existing research

Make clear why the project should be done at a specific department at Arts in Aarhus: how does it fit in;

Make it clear that you have – or are able to acquire or can compensate for not having – the skills necessary to do the project;

Be sure to address ethical & legal questions in relation to your project!

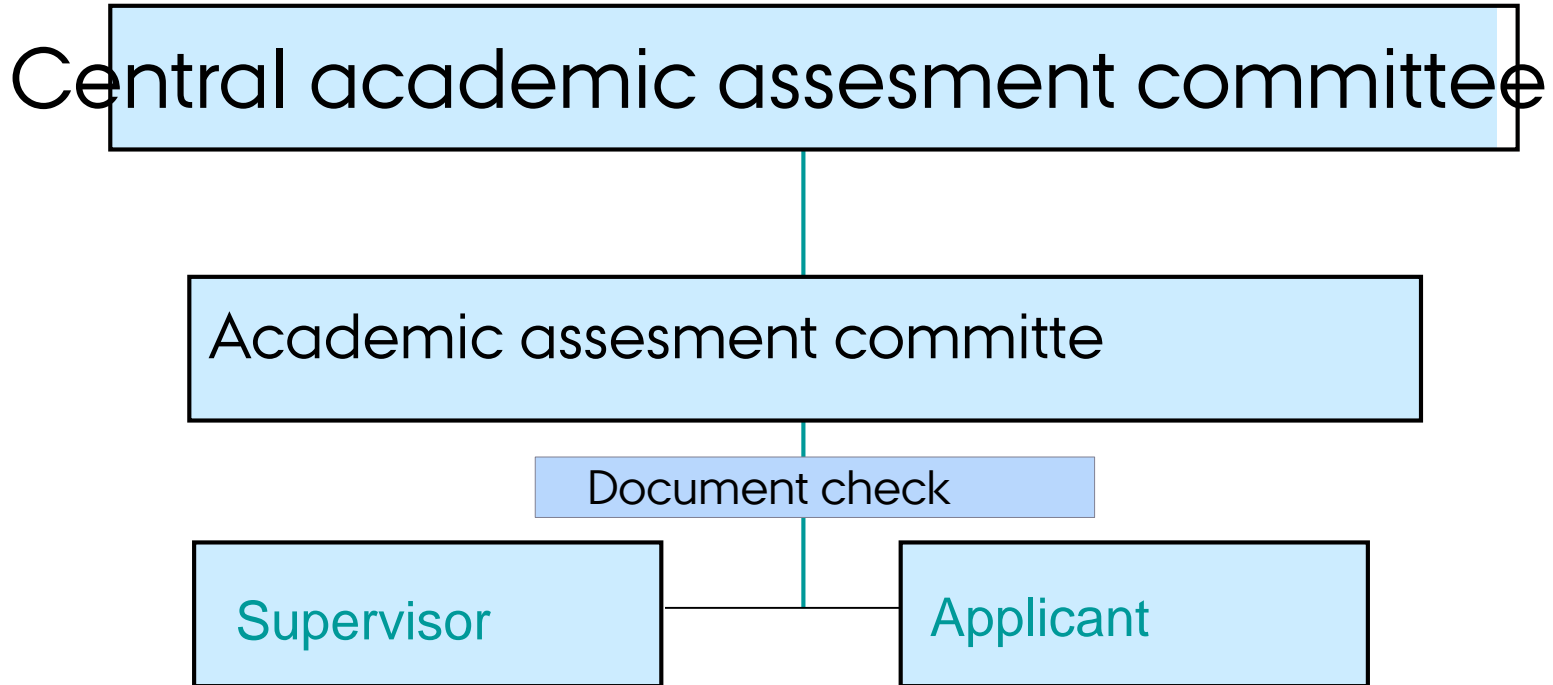
A piece of advice or two

- › Start early with project ideas and contact to possible supervisors
- › Discuss the project with a potential supervisor with co-students and other people several times during the process
- › Make sure you have all relevant documents
- › Reserve the last week for minor changes and the finishing touch

Find more advice here:

<https://studypedia.au.dk/en/academic-standards/preparing-a-phd-project>

The assessment process



ADVICE

> Write clearly and not just for disciplinary specialists!

The assessment committees are composed of people of different disciplinary backgrounds;

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Individual qualifications

1. Grades
2. Achievements
3. Academic CV (instructor, publications)
4. Studies abroad
5. Personal motivation and maturity

Language proficiency

1. English
2. Relevant languages

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Academic potential of the project

1. Methodological, analytical and theoretical framework and consistency
2. Academic relevance – knowledge of "state of the art"
3. Academic innovativeness
4. Feasibility
5. Relevance to research at ARTS / CAS
6. Match with profile of research unit and department

APPLICATION WEBSITE

- All information about the PhD at Arts can be found at:

<http://phd.arts.au.dk/>

- Note: “*applicants*”-section:



Graduate School - Faculty of Arts



- Calls can be found here.

<http://phd.arts.au.dk/applicants/open-and-specific-calls/>



APPLICATION GUIDE

- > Please read through the FAQ and the application guideline first
- > Contact the administration in case of uncertainties (Bettina Acthon or the relevant administrator)

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



APPLICATION DEADLINES

See this page:

<https://phd.arts.au.dk/applicants/open-and-specific-calls/deadline>

10 Questions regarding the good application

1. Does the project have a clearly defined **main problem**? Are the central **research questions** of the project clearly articulated?
2. Does the project assess the **research literature** in the area? Is your use of the literature in relation to your research topic or empirical study clear?
3. Is your choice of **material, method or theoretical** framework well argued?
4. Is it clear how your project will contribute to the **development of relevant knowledge** or method within your field?
5. Have you **situated your project** in relation to research strengths, clusters or research focus areas at the section, department or the faculty of ARTS? Or in an even wider context?

10 Questions regarding the good application

6. Have you produced a **convincing time schedule** for the project? Can the project be realised within this time frame?
7. Are the **academic qualifications and experiences** that make you especially qualified to complete the project clearly stated?
8. What are your **plans for the obligatory stay** at a research institution abroad? Is the choice of institution sufficiently justified by its research standard, relevance to the field etc.?
9. Is your **budget for the project realistic** and is it sufficiently justified in your project proposal?
10. Are the **ethical questions** and implications regarding the project articulated if it is a field work?