GRADUATE SCHOOL ARTS
INFORMATION MEETING FOR PHD APPLICANTS

PhD programme directors:
Karen Valentin & Uffe Jankvist
PhD programmes: Learning & Education
and Didactics

Stine Trentemøller, Research Consultant
Minna Elo, PhD administrator
DPU, Danish School of Education
CONTENT

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WHY DO A PHD?

› Intellectual stimulation
› Engagement in a specific research area
› Access to an academic community
› Experience with teaching
› A career path – within or outside the university
› Engagement with the wider society – a voice in the public debate
ABOUT THE PHD EDUCATION

› 3 year full time study including a research project under supervision and PhD courses (30 ECTS)

› Individual and independent study

› Good conditions and salary as a normal employee (if employed)

› Maybe the most expensive education in the world (2,5 mio. DKK)

› Associated main supervisor and co-supervisor

› 0,5 year teaching or similar work for the department

› 2-3 months stay abroad + international and national conferences

› Dissertation (a monograph or an article based PhD including 3-5 peer reviewed journal articles + ’kappe’/cape) and a PhD defence after 3 year study

› Possibilities for double degree programs
WHO DOES WHAT?

› Graduate School, Arts (GSA) – overall responsible for the education

› Two PhD programmes at DPU:
  › Karen Valentin (kava@edu.au.dk)
    PhD programme in Learning & Education
  › Uffe Jankvist (utj@edu.au.dk)
    PhD programme in Didactics

› We advice applicants, we are part of the GSA management and evaluate applications with 6 other PhD programme directors at Arts
DIFFERENT GRANTS

- **Arts Open Call grants** – faculty-financed (deadline March 15 and October 1)
- **Grants from the Research Council for Educational Research** (DPU pre-qualification process ahead of application)
- **Grants as part of larger application** from senior researcher at DPU to public councils or private foundations
- **Co-financed grants** – calls made in collaboration with the external institution (e.g. university college) and GSA
- **Externally funded PhD** – assessment of candidate’s qualifications and project description
- **Industrial PhD** – often in collaboration with a company – application to Innovation Fund Denmark
5+3 AND 4+4 MODELS

5+3 when the applicant has a Master’s degree

Otherwise, 4+4 model:

- *Enrollment* as a PhD student during master studies:
- Between 60 ECTS and max 90 ECTS master studies completed before PhD study start
- 1,5-2 years of part A (‘SU’/study support) and 2 years in part B (employed)
- The A-part finished by the Master’s degree (kandidatgraden) – the PhD project is negotiated with the supervisor and described in the PhD plan
- AFTER completed Master’s degree -> admission to part B, employed as a PhD student (last 2 years)
THE PHD COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH (PH.D.-RÅDET FOR UDDANNELSESFORSKNING)

› Research relevant for the practices of Danish primary and lower secondary school
› Problems concerning e.g. didactics of school subjects, general didactics, pedagogical themes, inclusion, IT in teaching, school and classroom management, etc.
› Collaboration between university college (UC) and university
› Students are normally employed by the UC and enrolled as a PhD student at the graduate school (AU)
› AU/DPU collaborate with all six University Colleges
› Announcement for application in January

› This website contains important information about the Council https://www.au.dk/forskning/phdraadetforuddannelsesforskning/
THE PHD COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH (PH.D.-RÅDET FOR UDDANNELSESFORSKNING)

› Mandatory pre-qualification for applicants:
   Contact University College, find contact persons at: https://www.au.dk/forskning/phdraadetforuddannelsesforskning/

› Also contact Stine Trentemøller, DPU, stinet@edu.au.dk on information meetings, scheduled for February/March and pre-qualification process!

› Fluency in Danish language can be necessary
› Deadline for pre-qualification: April
› Notification of pre-acceptance: early May
› Deadline for application to PhD Council: around 1 June
› Study start January-February in the following year
WHAT IS A GOOD APPLICATION?

› Read successful applications, follow the guidelines, consult one or more potential supervisors, present outlines etc.

› Open Call: Appr. 30-40 applications for the program Learning & Education, 5-15 for Didactics; every term. 1-3 are employed

› PhD Council: 50 applications for pre-qualification at DPU; 20-25 applications submitted and 5-6 grants

› Assessment criterias are personal and academic qualifications and the project description (idea, theory, method, feasibility).
PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

› A relevant Master’s degree with top marks (particularly in the Master’s thesis)

› Evt. special qualifications that are necessary for completion of the project (e.g. languageskills/mandatory English skills)

› Experience from research and education (not the same demands on 4+4), work experience, publications, conferences/seminars
THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

› Academic quality and originality
› Well-argued research question
› Methodological and theoretical consistency
› The possible contribution to scientific development of the discipline and field
› Realistic completion within timeframe
› Specific for the PhD Council for Educational Research
› Research: Impact on practice and dissemination
WHAT DOESN’T WORK?

› Lack of contextualisation
› Too large comparative studies
› Too implicit; lack of explanation of the problem in focus and key concepts
› Too normative and lack of distance to the problem in focus
› Too broad, imprecise (and too many) research questions
› The conclusion is taken beforehand
› Methodologically not sufficiently concrete; lack of links between concrete methods and research questions
› Lack of ethical reflections
› Feasibility
HOW TO GET STARTED?

› A good application takes three months to make
› Early in the process, contact a potential supervisor, who can help evaluate, how the project can develop the research area (ask us if you are in doubt, who can supervise you)

› Questions to the application facility at Arts: Bettina H. Acthon, +45 8716 2258, acthon@au.dk
› Questions of administrative character: Minna Elo minna.elo@au.dk
LINKS AND INFO

› Find call, application facility and application advice at http://phd.arts.au.dk/applicants/open-and-specific-calls/

› Deadline for applications are March 15 and October 1 (open call)

› Ph.d.-rådet for Uddannelsesforskning (Læringsløft 2020) Research: https://www.au.dk/forskning/phdraadetforuddannelsesforskning/

› Innovation Fund Denmark: https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/application/erhvervsphd

Also: Read the PhD Ministerial Order (Ph.d.-bekendtgørelsen) & The Rules for the PhD programme, Graduate School, Arts