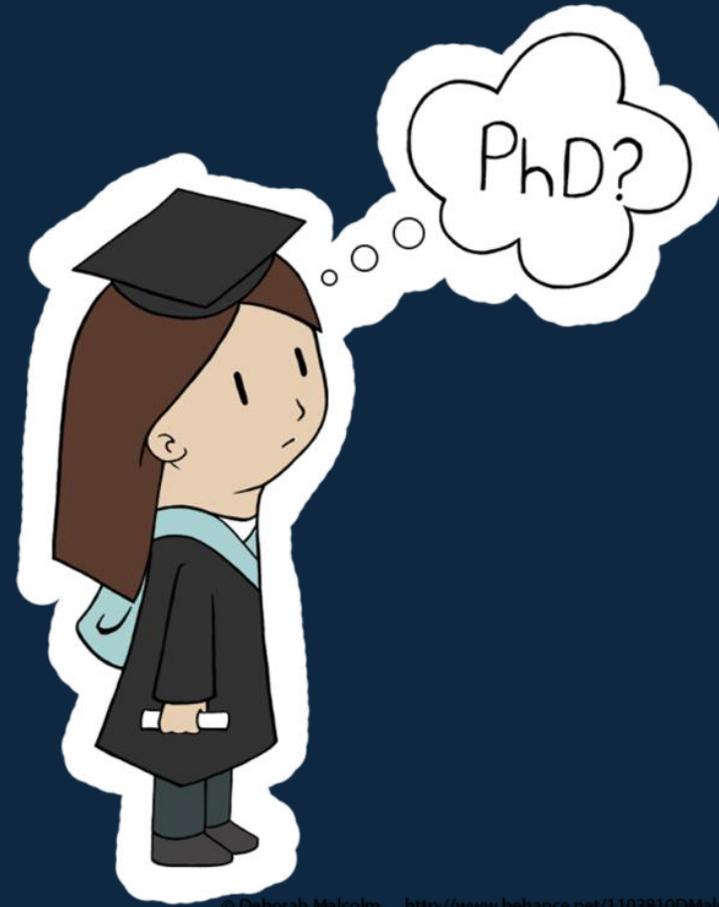


Information meeting for PhD applicants



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SCHOOL OF CULTURE AND SOCIETY

AARHUS UNIVERSITY

17 FEBRUARY 2026

JEPPE BÜCHERT NETTERSTRØM
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



Next application deadlines

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

Deadline	Answer should arrive	Scholarship starts
15 March 2026	Late June 2026	1 September 2026
1 October 2026	Late December 2026	1 February 2027

Graduate School of Arts: 8 PhD programmes

- **Anthropology, Global Studies, and the Study of Religion (director: Marianne Schleicher)**
- Art, Literature, and Cultural Studies
- Curriculum Research, and Education
- **History, Archaeology and Classical Studies (director: Jeppe Büchert Netterstrøm)**
- ICT, Media, Communication, and Journalism
- Language, Linguistics, and Cognition
- Learning and Education
- **Theology, History of Ideas, and Philosophy (director: Jakob Engberg)**

PhD enrolment models

- 4+4:
 - 60-90 ECTS passed on the MA level at the time of enrolment
- 5+3:
 - MA degree (at the time of enrolment)

Building blocks of a PhD education

- Completion of the MA if you are 4+4 (1 year)
- PhD courses – 30 ECTS (1/2 year)
- Departmental work – 840 hours (1/2 year)
- Conferences, workshops, seminars – locally, nationally, internationally
- Change of research environment (2-12 months)
- Research project → PhD dissertation (2 years in total)

4+4 PhD enrolment 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 examination (after 4th semester evaluation)
 - Continue enrolment part B or MA degree? (finished with MA thesis)
- Part B
 - Enrolment as PhD fellow 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 defence

Funding

- Scholarships offered by the Graduate school (Deadline 1 October/15 March)
 - See <https://phd.arts.au.dk/applicants/general-information>
- The Independent Research Fund Denmark as part of collaborative project
- Industrial PhD programme
- Private funding, e.g., Carlsberg or Velux (mainly as part of collaborative projects)
- Scholarship co-funded with external partner (university college, museum, church etc.)

Preparing the application

- Start early with project ideas
- Contact to possible supervisors
- Discuss the project with supervisor and co-students **several** times during the process
- Write and rewrite several times (i.e. many drafts during the proces)
- Reserve the last week for minor changes and the finishing touch

The application

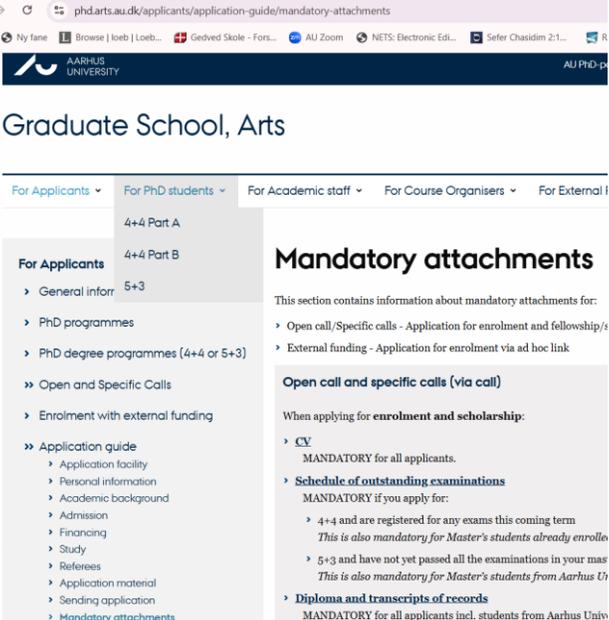
Application guide:

<https://phd.arts.au.dk/applicants/application-guide>

Application material (PDF only, max 20 MB, no zip)

- CV (e.g. degrees, academic publications)
- Schedule of forthcoming examinations (only 4+4)
- Diplomas and transcripts of records (e.g., credit transfer) – NB: BA + MA
- Proof of language skills
- **Project description incl. Timetable**
- Consent from non-AU referees (not recommendation)
- Budget details (If the project requires more than a workstation and general travel funds)
- Other information to consider
- Motivation (personal development, career plans, AU embedment)

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



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL phd.arts.au.dk/applicants/application-guide/mandatory-attachments. The page is titled "Mandatory attachments" and is part of the "Application guide" for "For Applicants". The page content includes a navigation menu on the left with options like "General infor...", "PhD programmes", "PhD degree programmes (4+4 or 5+3)", "Open and Specific Calls", "Enrolment with external funding", and "Application guide". The main content area is titled "Mandatory attachments" and contains the following text: "This section contains information about mandatory attachments for:" followed by a list of links: "Open call/Specific calls - Application for enrolment and fellowship/s", "External funding - Application for enrolment via ad hoc link", "Open call and specific calls (via call)", and "When applying for enrolment and scholarship:". Below this, there are three bullet points: "CV MANDATORY for all applicants.", "Schedule of outstanding examinations MANDATORY if you apply for:", and "Diploma and transcripts of records MANDATORY for all applicants incl. students from Aarhus Uni".

The assessment process

Supervisor's
assessment
(Department level)

(Supervisor's "assessment" is not part of the formal assessment process but mentioned here to indicate the importance of communicating with a potential supervisor)

Academic
assessment
committee
(Programme level)

Central assessment
committee
(Faculty level)

Assesment criteria

Individual qualifications

- Marks
- Efficiency
- Academic CV (instructor, publications)
- Studies abroad
- Personal motivation and maturity

Language proficiency

- English (at B-level)
- Relevant languages

Academic potential of the project

- Academic relevance and originality – knowledge of existing research, cf. "state of the art"
- Methodological, analytical and theoretical skills and consistency
- Feasibility
- Synergy with research profile og strategy of ARTS and its departments

10 Questions to test your application

1. Does the project have a clearly defined **main problem/research question**?
2. Does the project signal that you know and can assess the **research literature** within your field?
3. Is it clear how your project will contribute to the **development of new/supplementing knowledge** or method to your field?
4. Is your choice of **method or theoretical literature** discussed and well argued?
5. Have you produced a **realistic time schedule** for the project?
6. Are the **academic qualifications and experiences** that make you especially qualified to complete the project clearly stated?
7. Have you argued for the **institutional embedment** of your project at AU and the foreign research institution during your obligatory stay?
8. Is your **budget for the project** realistic and justified?
9. Are the **ethical questions** and implications regarding the project articulated?
10. Is your project description **understandable for scholars from different Arts disciplines**?

Application website

Information for potential applicants, see

<https://phd.arts.au.dk/applicants/general-information>

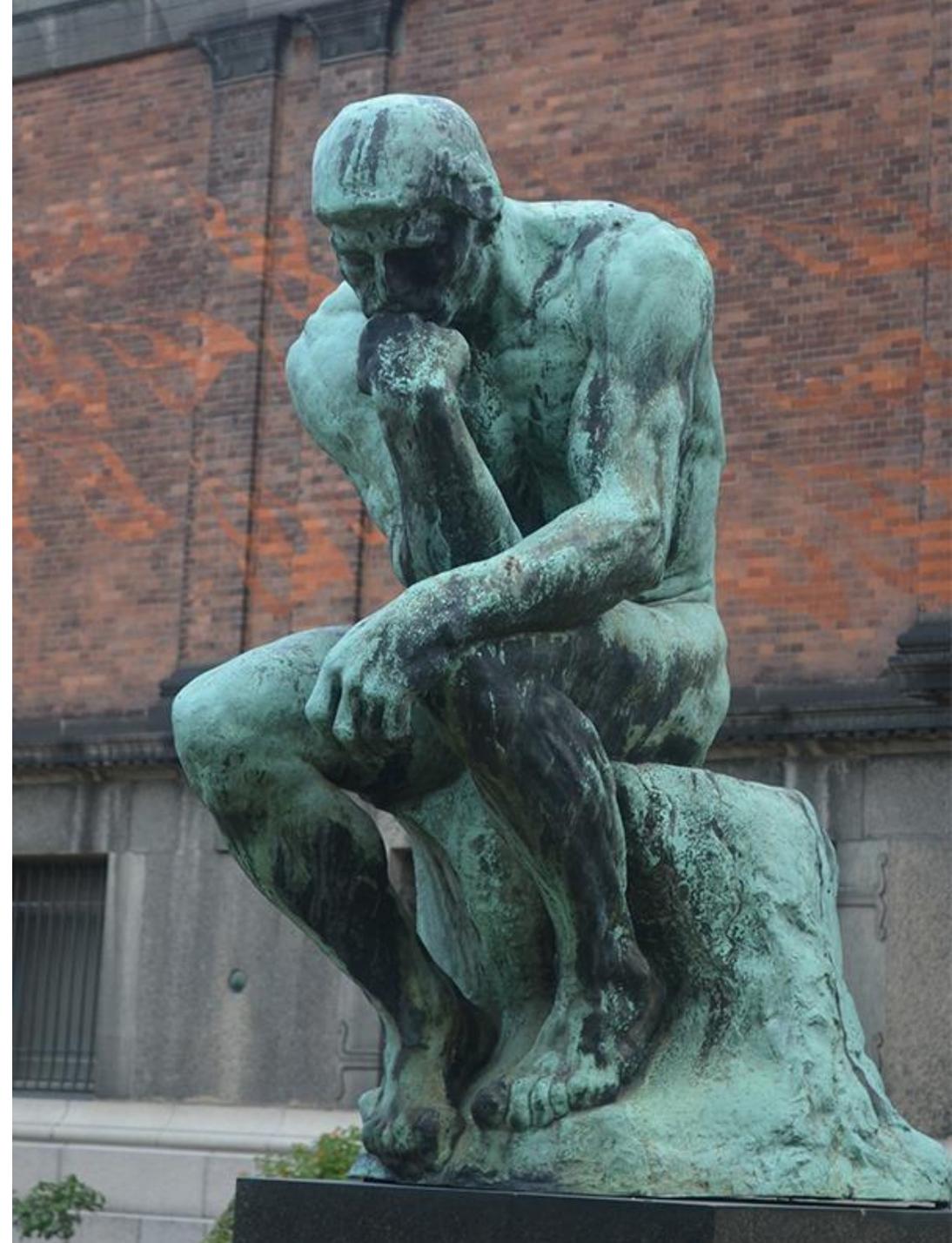
Please, read through everything, before turning to administrators or directors!

For uncertainties regarding technical aspects of the application, please, contact PhD administrator Bettina Holmbo Acthon: <https://www.au.dk/en/acthon@au.dk>

Please, do not ask programme directors for advice regarding what potential supervisor to contact.

IS THIS THE RIGHT THING FOR ME?

- The role as a PhD fellow? Freedom? Uncertainty? Irregularity? Loneliness? Pressure?
- Try to think about why this sort of work would be good for you .. And why you would be good at it... Try to compare with previous experiences
- Think about this work in relation to your life in general (family, plans for the future etc.)



GOOD LUCK
WITH YOUR
APPLICATIONS

