

INFORMATION MEETING FOR POTENTIAL PHD APPLICANTS AT DPU, AARHUS UNIVERSITY

Lars Emmerik Damgaard Knudsen, director PhD-programme Didactics

Kirsten Elisa Petersen, director PhD-programme Learning and Education

Minna Elo, PhD-administrator



CONTENT

- › 1 hour in English
 - › ½ hour in Danish about the grants where Danish language skills are required

 - › About the PhD-education and why do a PhD
 - › Different grants
 - › Models for intake: 5+3
 - › What is a good application?
 - › How do you apply?
 - › Where do you find information?
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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**
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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**
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WHO DOES WHAT?

- › Graduate School, Arts (GSA) – overall responsible for the education
 - › Two PhD programmes at DPU:
 - › Kirsten Elisa Petersen (kepe@edu.au.dk)
PhD programme in Learning & Education
 - › Lars Emmerik Damgaard Knudsen (lada@edu.au.dk)
PhD programme in Didactics
 - › NB: Jeppe Bundsgaard (jebu@edu.au.dk) new progr. director as of 1 March
 - › We advice applicants, we are part of the GSA management and evaluate applications with 6 other PhD programme directors at Arts
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DIFFERENT GRANTS

- › ***Arts Open Call* grants – faculty-financed: 15 March and 1 October**
 - › **Grants from the *Research Council for Educational Research* (DPU pre-qualification proces ahead of application)**
 - › **Grants as part of larger application from senior researcher at DPU to public councils or private foundations**
 - › ***Non-university Research Education* (Independent Research Fund Denmark)**
 - › **Externally funded PhD – assessment of candidate’s qualifications and project description**
 - › **Industrial PhD – often in collaboration with a company – application to Innovation Fund Denmark**
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5+3 AND 4+4 MODELS

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

Otherwise, 4+4 model, but only for students who master Danish – more later



WHAT IS A GOOD APPLICATION?

- › **Read the guide "Preparing a PhD Project" at <https://studypedia.au.dk/skriftlig/preparing-a-phd-project>**
 - › **Consult one or more potential supervisors for feedback, ask for succesful applications, follow the guidelines, present outlines etc.**
 - › **Open Call: Appr. 30-40 applications for the program Learning & Education, 5-15 for Didactics. 1-3 are employed**
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 - › **Assessment criterias are personal and academic qualifications and the project description (idea, theory, method, feasibility).**
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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. language skills/ mandatory English skills)**
 - › **Experience from research and education, work experience, publications, conferences/seminars**
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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**
 - › **Research: Impact on practice and dissemination**
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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**
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HOW TO GET STARTED?

- › A good application takes time months to prepare
 - › Early in the process, contact a potential supervisor, who can help evaluate, how the project can develop the research area (look here for potential supervisors: <https://dpu.au.dk/en/> 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: graduate.school.arts@au.dk
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LINKS AND INFO

- › Find call, application facility and guidelines at <http://phd.arts.au.dk/applicants/open-and-specific-calls/>
- › Deadline for applications are March 15 and October 1 (open call).
- › Independent Research Fund Denmark https://dff.dk/en/front-page?set_language=en
- › 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

RESTEN AF MØDET ER PÅ DANSK

DIFFERENT GRANTS

- › *Arts Open Call* grants – faculty-financed: 15 March and 1 October
 - › 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
 - › *Non-university Research Education* (Independent Research Fund Denmark)
 - › **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
<https://innovationsfonden.dk/da/p/erhvervsforsker#accordion5312>
 - › **Partnerskab for børneforskning:** <https://borneforsk.dk/soeg-forskningsmidler/>
 - › The PhD Council for Educational Research (**Ph.d.-rådet for uddannelsesforskning**)
<https://www.au.dk/forskning/phdraadetforuddannelsesforskning/>
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THE PHD COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH (PH.D.-RÅDET FOR UDDANNELSESFORSKNING)

- › **Research relevant for the practices of Danish primary and lower secondary school**
 - › **Issues concerning e.g. subject didactics and development of teaching; well-being and failure to thrive; diversity, inequality and inclusive environments;**
 - › **school leadership and school development; education for sustainability and green transition 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/>
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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 regarding the pre-qualification process!
 - › **Fluency in Danish language can be necessary**
 - › **Deadline for pre-qualification: April at DPU – but check earlier deadline at the selected UC**
 - › **Notification of pre-acceptance: End of April**
 - › **Deadline for application to PhD Council: May (check date on the website above)**
 - › **Study start January-February in the following year**
 - › **PhD Council: 50 applications for pre-qualification at DPU; 20-25 applications submitted and 5-6 grants**
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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)
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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. language skills/ mandatory English skills)
 - › Experience from research and education (**not the same demands on 4+4**), work experience, publications, conferences/seminars
 - › **Part-time MA students must apply for full-time study before the 1st of March before applying for a phd stipend**
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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
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LINKS AND INFO

- › **Faculty financed scholarships - >**
- › Find call, application facility and guidelines 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/>
- › **Partnerskab for børneforskning:** <https://borneforsk.dk/soeg-forskningsmidler/>
- › **Independent Research Fund Denmark** https://dff.dk/en/front-page?set_language=en
- › **Innovation Fund Denmark:** <https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/application/erhvervsphd>

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