

Meeting date: 12 December 2022 9.15-11.15 am.

Meeting place: Taasingegade 3, 8000 Aarhus C, 1443 – 440, and Emdrup A204

Meeting subject: PhD committee meeting

Attendees:

Academic representatives: Kirsten Elisa Petersen (chair), Charlotte Appel, Anders-Christian Jacobsen, Jacob Lund.

PhD representatives: Eva Gjessing, Hatice Nuriler.

PhD Substitute: Alexander Ulrich Thygesen.

Observers: Head of Graduate School Anne Marie Pahuus, PhD students William Toke Mathorne, Rithma K. E. Larsen. Anders Gade Jensen (minutes) and Anna Louise Plaskett/PhD Admin team.

Guests from CED: Sarah Robinson, Bente Kristiansen and Dorina Gnaur.

Apologies for absence: Katja Brøgger, Karen Nordentoft, Malthe Stavning Erslev, Christian Ulrik Andersen, Kalle Kusk Gjetting.

1. **Welcome and approval of agenda**
2. **Presentation and discussion/feedback regarding courses provided by AU Centre for Educational Development (CED)**
3. **News from the Graduate School**
4. **AU elections**
5. **PhD courses – overview and status**
6. **Update from task force regarding 4+4**
7. **EVT (Any other business)**

1. Welcome and approval of agenda

Anders-Christian Lund Jacobsen will be chairing the meeting.

Presentation of guests from CED.

2. Presentation and discussion/feedback regarding courses provided by AU Centre for Educational Development (CED)

Currently, CED provides two mandatory courses for PhD students and one for supervisors.

Bente Kristiansen gave overview over the layout of the mandatory courses for PhD students (Appendix: CED-presentation).



Discussions: Would it be possible to facilitate PhD students and supervisors taking the supervision course together? CED says that evaluations of the courses show that both parties have the need for open discussion without the other. It can be hard to arrange further course days.

Division of labor between supervisors is discussed and how the course can reflect issues at stake in the PhD programmes (included in the new course).

The placement of the teaching course is discussed. In some departments, the word in the street is that PhD students feel that it is good to participate in the course before taking on department teaching. The course is announced as most valuable when done in conjunction with teaching obligations.

Further discussion deferred to a later meeting.

Sarah Robinson: Current Course for PhD supervisors.

The course in Emdrup was cancelled due to too few participants. The course in Aarhus had last minute cancellations and was conducted with only three attendees. Sparring with senior colleagues between the two days as well as participation with Anna Plaskett and Anne Marie Pahuus gives some organisational connection.

Dorina Gnaur: New course for PhD supervisors

A combination of BSS and Arts supervisors. Articulating of in-house tacit knowledge is achieved by interviews. There are 10 slots for Arts-VIP. There are more for BSS, but it is mandatory there.

Discussion: Sharing difficult issues between supervisors is experienced as the most valuable part of the supervisor courses.

CED urges supervisors to nudge PhD students to take the supervision course in the beginning – given that it is a mandatory course, having too many late-stage PhD students can impact the outcome for the PhD students.

3. News from the Graduate School

- Status update on ongoing cases by Anna Louise Plaskett. New webpage regarding onboarding is now online:
<https://phd.arts.au.dk/phd-students/onboarding>
Comments and suggestions for any improvements are welcome.
- Update regarding media training, Anne Marie Pahuus: The advice from the PhD committee has been passed on to the PhD programme directors. The ARTS communication team is able to assist as well.
- “Don’t steal my work” is discussed in the Academic Council tomorrow. Getting the message out on existing options is a first step.

4. AU elections

For the first time in years, we have elected PhD students from all schools. The next meeting will be constituent meeting.

5. PhD courses – overview and status

The appendices are arranged differently this time giving more data instead of an EXCEL-file. The appendices are quite long. Committee members would like primarily the old overview and for some select meetings the full package.

Is there a way to get more coordination to provide courses for all PhD students? Everyone can currently sign up for any course – locally and nationally. How do we get PhD students to seek out generic “arts courses” instead of just local courses? That would require concrete suggestions. Supervisors experience that PhD students tend to look for more topic specific courses. If such courses can be arranged by PhD students, it might make it easier to gather a larger group.

6. Update from task force regarding 4+4

Charlotte Appel: The idea was to address 4+4 issues specifically: Not sufficient knowledge and information about the scheme. Many experience uncertainties. There is a lot of unused potential in the scheme. The next step is a discussion with PhD programme directors. The discussion was undercut by the budget cuts – the work has been put on pause. However, initiatives are already being taken.

Some input from the group:

- Information about 4+4: Better, more general and at an earlier stage. A critical look at the website. More information as soon as you enter the MA programme.
- Semi-annual information meetings specifically for potential 4+4 students. The general information meetings land too close to the application deadline.
- Branding the 4+4 as an alternative way of doing your MA-programme with more freedom of choice.
- Collecting testimonials
- Assessments of applications: It might be an idea to ask for different applications. More template-based specifying different aspects of application formalities.
- Different initiatives for current 4+4 students. Could we group them across the faculty into a network?

The taskforce has been partly put on hold mainly for administrative purposes. Many of the ideas are growing already. The task force will reconvene later to keep the organisational focus on the work in progress.

7. EVT (Any other business)

The Carlsberg PhD fellowships: GSA will receive 15 fellowships in all (5+3). The first five will open from next round of applications along with the other open calls. There will be no special application criteria. Candidates will apply as usual. Five of the applicants will be chosen by the GSA from the Carlsberg criteria to receive the Carlsberg fellowships. Applicants for Carlsberg fellowships are required to have a Danish MA.