

Meeting Date: 6 March 2026 13.15-15.15

Place: Tåsingevej 3, 1443/440 + Teams
Ordinary PhD Committee Meeting, Arts

Attendees:

Academic representatives: Anders-Christian Jacobsen/IKS (chair), Charlotte Appel/IKS, Katja Brøgger/DPU, Camilla Paldam/IKK, Mette-Marie Zacher Sørensen/IKK.

PhD representatives: Freja Ruby Flejsborg/IKK (vice chair), Toke Kløve Junge/IKS, Jamila Juzer Siamwalla/IKK, Sasha Denae Juul Nielsen/IKS, David Sebastian Jæger/DPU and Anna Lea Munk Magnussen/DPU.

Observers: PhD students Dina Winther/IKS and Sara Didriksen/IKS, Anders Gade Jensen (minutes) and Anna Louise Plaskett/PhD Admin team.

Absent:

Head of Graduate School/Vice Dean Søren M. Sindbæk and Kirsten Elisa Petersen/DPU.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The proposed decision regarding organisational changes in the Administrative Centre (ACA) gives rise to discussions in the PhD committee and an expansion of item two. Søren has unfortunately had to withdraw from participating in this meeting and therefore not able to present the proposed decision on behalf of the Faculty Management. Item 2 on the agenda may become a longer discussion rendering some of the further points to be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Otherwise, the agenda was approved.

2. Status from the Graduate school / PhD administration

Anna Plaskett gave status over the latest statistics from the Graduate School. This includes the status list of PhD courses provided by the Graduate School. The approval of PhD courses lies formally with the PhD committee.

The report and analysis regarding the reorganisation of the administrative PhD team has been shared with the PhD committee. The PhD committee has not been formally consulted in the making and hearing of the proposed decision. Parties who have been and will be consulted are the liaison committees of the Administrative Centre (ACA-LSU) and the Faculty (FSU).

Currently there are 7 members of staff in the PhD administrative team supporting the Graduate School. The initial plan is to relocate two named team members (Anders Gade and Anna Plaskett) to new tasks in a new research support unit (Arts Forskning), and further two or three unnamed team members are expected to relocate to the HR

department leaving two-three members (Arts Forskning) to administer the enrolments of the Graduate School.

This means that tasks facilitated by the current PhD team will either have to be eliminated or moved to other parties within HR and at the schools/departments (secretariats).

The PhD committee voices strong concern regarding the procedural bypass of the committee in the decision-making process.

The PhD students have given a commentary to the intended decision which is attached to these minutes.

The committee discussed options for engaging with the Faculty management regarding the decision.

3. Discussion of the University Pedagogical Course

Criteria for dispensations/exemptions from the course will be discussed on the basis on two recent examples.

The course is CED administered covering both ARTS and BSS.

The previous PhD committee has been in dialogue with CED who has changed the course content from the 2025 cycle. Historically, we have received many requests from PhD students with backgrounds as teachers which have been turned down by previous committees. The PhD students in the committee agree to maintain the requirements also for experienced PhD Students. Some PhD students, such as Industrial PhDs, are not required to teach during their enrolment. This is where it might be particularly relevant. For those students, a different type of course regarding knowledge dissemination may be needed.

Bringing experience as a researcher into teaching, as well as balancing your own research with the more basic curriculum is an important aspect to learn for all students.

It is important to provide enough spots for the PhD students to attend the mandatory courses in the right order.

4. Discussion of research environment change

The committee discussed the framework around the rules of the Graduate School regarding the required two months coherent stay abroad ('Forskningsmiljøskifte'). It was made clear that the requirement of two months was set in order to ensure that students are properly embedded in a new research environment, taking part in the daily life of the other institution and considered a colleague over an extended coherent period. This ensures that the foreign institution regards the student as a colleague rather than a short-term visitor.

The committee considered if it would be prudent to set some benchmarks detailing when the local rules could be replaced with the less strict ministerial order requirements. The administration noted that it would not be legally possible for the elected

body to set rules regarding rule exemptions (Danish: 'Skøn under regel'). Each case has to be handled individually taking singular issues into consideration.

It is possible for the committee to give exemptions to the local rules (section 4.1, no. 5, set in accordance with the Ministerial Order § 25, stk. 1, nr. 2). If an exemption is given, the student would still have to obey the phrasings in the Danish PhD Order (§ 7, stk. 2, no. 3). If exemptions of the requirement of Research Stay were to be made, they should be sought on a case by case basis to Uddannelses- og Forskningsstyrelsen.

- The Danish PhD Order § 7, stk. 2, no. 3:
<https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/retsinfo/2013/9635>
- The guidelines of the Graduate School (section 4.1, no. 5):
https://phd.arts.au.dk/fileadmin/phd.arts.au.dk/AR/Generelle_retningslinjer_UK_1-11-2012.pdf

5. The international evaluation of the Graduate School

An evaluation panel has been suggested consisting of:

- Per Krogh Hansen, SDU (Chair)
- Tina Saarinen, Jyvaskyla, Finland
- Marianne Bjelland Kartzow, University of Oslo

With site visits being conducted at AU during 10-12 June 2026, a draft programme for the site visit was circulated. The administration asked if the PhD committee found that PhD students and supervisors were duly represented through the committee interviews or if separate interviews should be held with other students and supervisors.

The PhD committee approved the composition of the evaluation panel and noted that an open invitation to any students/supervisors who would like to contribute to the evaluation would secure a better representation than just the elected body.

Anna will distribute an open invitation to enrolled PhD students and PhD supervisors (by e-mail in MyPhD).