# Contents

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General information

The rules and regulations for the PhD programme at the Graduate School consist of the Common rules for the PhD programme at UCPH and the Supplementary rules at SUND. We advise you to read these rules to get an overview of the PhD study programme at SUND.

Sections marked in red refer to the supplementary PhD rules specific to SUND. Please read these in conjunction with the generic UCPH rules.

For a quick return to the table of contents, you can always click on this icon in the bottom right hand corner of each page.

Further information
At healthsciences.ku.dk/phd you can find information and forms for your PhD study programme, e.g. enrolment, PhD project, thesis and defence.

Terminology
Please note that the University of Copenhagen and the Graduate School use different terms in connection with the PhD programme.

University of Copenhagen
› PhD School
› PhD Committee

The Graduate School
› Graduate School
› PhD Study Board

Visit our website:
healthsciences.ku.dk/phd/
## The Graduate School organisation

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| **Dean**              | › Head of the Faculty  
› Responsible for the overall development and financial affairs of the Faculty with reference to the Rector  
› Has the overall decision-making power at the Faculty |
| **Vice-Dean for Research** | › Overall responsibility for the PhD programme on behalf of the Dean  
› Responsible for the strategy and framework for the PhD programme  
› Consulted by the Graduate School in questions of doubt |
| **Graduate Programmes** | › Focused research training programmes  
› Offer PhD students a variety of courses, seminars and other scientific, networking and social activities |
| **PhD Coordinators**   | › Appointed by hospitals or graduate programmes  
› Available for advice and guidance for PhD students and help to facilitate the contact between PhD students, the department and the Graduate School  
› Organise events and activities to foster a good academic and social environment |
| **Head of Graduate School** | › Appointed by the Dean  
› Has the decision-making power on behalf of the Faculty on the individual PhD student’s studies and approves content in the PhD programmes as defined in the PhD Order  
› Approves e.g. study elements, PhD courses and assessment committees, which has been delegated by the PhD Study Board |
| **PhD Study Board**    | › A democratically elected committee consisting of scientific staff and PhD students representing different academic areas  
› Provides feedback on issues of relevance to the PhD programme  
› As defined in the University Act, the Board has decision-making authority on parts of the PhD programme |
| **Supervisors**        | › Ensure that the PhD project is feasible and represents state-of-the-art research  
› Principal supervisor offers regular supervision and guidance for the PhD student regarding the PhD programme and has primary responsibility for the PhD project and assessment of the PhD student  
› Primary co-supervisor participates in the regular assessments and is obliged to have contact with and supervise the PhD student at least twice a year  
› Additional co-supervisors may be appointed |
| **Graduate School Administration** | › Administration and case-handling of approx. 2000 PhD students’ studies in accordance with laws, rules and regulations  
› Supports and advises on PhD programme matters with reference to the Head of the Graduate School |
1. Introduction

1.1 General rules
The legal basis for the PhD programme and the award of PhD degrees at the University of Copenhagen (the UCPH) is principally laid down in the Danish University Act (‘Universitetsloven’) (see Consolidated Act no. 172 of 27 February 2018) and the PhD Order no. 1039 of 27 August 2013 (the PhD Order is shown below, after these common UCPH rules and guidelines). Other Danish legislation etc. is applicable where relevant, e.g. the Danish Public Administration Act (‘Forvaltningsloven’). Furthermore, reference is made to the Statutes for the UCPH, including Part 10 concerning the Head of each PhD School (for further information, see this link: about.ku.dk/management/board/statutes/).

These general rules and guidelines for the PhD programme at the UCPH lay down supplementary internal rules concerning admission, organisation of the programme, appointment of the principal supervisor and any additional supervisors, supervision of the PhD student as well as the writing, submission and defence of the PhD thesis (see Section 1 (2) of the PhD Order).

The programme is prescribed to 180 ECTS credits, which corresponds to three years of full-time study (see Section 4 of the PhD Order). The three-year period is calculated from the date of enrolment up to and including the date of thesis submission. The assessment and defence process is not included in the three years.

1.2 Purpose and scope
The PhD programme is a research training programme that trains PhD students to conduct research at the highest international level, and to take responsibility for research, development and teaching tasks in the private and public sectors, for which deep knowledge of research is required. The main objective of the PhD programme is to allow students to conduct active research under supervision (see Section 1 (2) of the PhD Order).

The programme is prescribed to 180 ECTS credits, which corresponds to three years of full-time study (see Section 4 of the PhD Order). The three-year period is calculated from the date of enrolment up to and including the date of thesis submission. The assessment and defence process is not included in the three years.

1.3 Organisation of the PhD programme at the UCPH
The PhD programme at the UCPH is assigned to the PhD Schools. Each PhD School is run by a Head of School who is responsible for the programme, and who is assisted by a PhD committee with equal representation of academic staff and PhD students (see Part 10 of the UCPH’s Statutes). Each PhD School may run a range of local or interinstitutional research training programmes. Each PhD School may have its own supplementary rules. The common rules and guidelines of the UCPH should therefore be read in conjunction with any supplementary rules of the relevant PhD School. Further information about organisation, research training programmes, supplementary rules and guidelines as well as contacts is available on the faculties’ websites (phd.ku.dk/English).

Individuals who obtain a PhD degree:

Knowledge:
› Must possess knowledge at the highest international level within the research field.
› Must have made a significant contribution to the development of new knowledge and understanding within the research field based on scientific studies.

Skills:
› Must master the scientific methodologies and tools as well as master other skills related to research and development tasks within the field.
› Must be able to analyse, evaluate and develop new ideas, including designing and developing new techniques and skills within the subject area.
› Must be able to participate in international discussions within the subject area and disseminate scientific findings and progress to a broad audience.

Competences:
› Must be able to plan and carry out research and development tasks in complex and unpredictable contexts.
› Must be able to independently initiate and participate in national and international collaboration on research and development with scientific integrity.
› Must be able to independently initiate research and development projects and, through these, generate new knowledge and new skills which move the research field forward.

(The Danish Qualifications Framework for Higher Education: see ufm.dk/en).
2. Enrolment and study start

2.1 Enrolment
The UCPH offers PhD programmes in the subject areas in which the University conducts research and has the authority to decide who to admit (see Sections 2 and 6 of the PhD Order). In addition to the rules laid out in the present document, applications for enrolment are subject to each PhD School’s own rules and procedures.

The admission and enrolment procedure can take the form of a separate process or a single process together with the procedure of employment as a PhD student at the UCPH.

As a minimum, all applications must include the following:

› A description of the planned research project and a preliminary PhD plan with information about a plan for supervision.
› The applicant’s curriculum vitae with, if relevant, a list of publications.
› A copy of the relevant diploma (including, where possible, the number of ECTS).
› An account of the funding.

Each faculty can decide to stipulate additional requirements for the applications.

Non-Danish diplomas, excluding Norwegian, Swedish, German, French or English, must usually be accompanied by a certified official translation into Danish or English, and by an official description of the relevant grading scale, unless the faculty concerned has stipulated different requirements.

If the examination that qualifies the applicant for the PhD programme is from a non-Danish institution, the faculty can obtain an assessment from the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education (ufm.dk/en). If the application already contains an assessment from the Agency for Science and Higher Education, this assessment must be complied with in the evaluation of the applicant (see the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications Act). Each faculty is also entitled to set requirements for English language tests for applicants from abroad.

At the time of enrolment, the applicant must normally hold an academically relevant master’s degree or be able to document equivalent qualifications, e.g. degrees from a university abroad. Each faculty can decide whether it will allow enrolment in a PhD programme while the applicant concerned is still studying for a master’s degree. See Section 2.2 below for the special rules that apply in this case.

Decisions on admission and enrolment are made by the relevant Head of the faculty’s PhD School based on recommendations from the academic members of the PhD committee. Special emphasis is placed on:

› The applicant’s documented academic qualifications
› The research project’s suitability as a PhD project
› How the project fits into the faculty’s academic profile
› Availability of the necessary academic and financial resources (this does not necessarily include the salary of the PhD student, as the terms and conditions of employment fall outside the scope of these rules).
The PhD student is enrolled at the PhD School of the faculty in question and is affiliated to the department where the principal supervisor is employed. If the faculty is not organised in departments, the PhD student is affiliated to the same section or research unit as the principal supervisor.

Under normal circumstances, a response to an enrolment application can be expected within six weeks of the PhD School receiving the application. If the applicant is also applying for a scholarship, time for assessing the scholarship application should also be factored in.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND
Enrolment
Applications for enrolment are accepted continuously throughout the year. If there is one or more external financial partners in the project, the department where the principal supervisor is affiliated must ensure that the applicant includes a description of the nature of such financial cooperation and any agreements concerning intellectual property rights and publication.

The enrolment application must be signed/approved by the:

› PhD student
› Principal supervisor
› Primary co-supervisor
› Head of research centre or department at the Faculty
› Guarantor of tuition fee
› Head of graduate programme
› Head of workplace

The PhD student is responsible for submitting the application, but the principal supervisor must assist with completing the application. The principal supervisor and the primary co-supervisor must furthermore confirm that the application conforms with state-of-the-art research.

International applicants
The applicant’s admission to the PhD programme is based on qualifications equivalent to a Danish two-year master’s degree (120 ECTS). Degrees awarded by foreign universities must be assessed by either the Graduate School or the Ministry of Higher Education and Science. The qualifications of international applicants are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants whose principal language is not English must document that their oral and written English is at a satisfactory level. The IELTS test and the TOEFL test are approved as documentation. You must pass the IELTS test with a score of 6,5 or above, the written TOEFL test with a score of 560 or above or the online TOEFL test with a score of 83 or above.

Exemption may be granted to:

› Applicants from countries where English is the official language
› Applicants from EU/EEA countries
› Applicants who can document that English was the language of instruction during their BSc or MSc study programme.

Applicants who have paid for a TOEFL or IELTS test can apply for a refund of the test fee after enrolment. Only tests taken in connection with the application for enrolment may lead to reimbursement. Please be aware that the Graduate School only reimburse the cost if the receipt is available in English.

Language tests dating back more than two years are not accepted. A certified copy of the test result must be enclosed with the application for enrolment.

Graduate programme
All PhD students must be affiliated to a graduate programme. The graduate programmes are individual research training programmes and offer PhD students a variety of courses, seminars and other academic activities. The applicant must choose a graduate programme when applying for enrolment. The head of graduate programme must approve the affiliation. The PhD student can only be affiliated to one graduate programme.

Date of enrolment
A PhD student can be enrolled by no earlier than the first day of the month of approval. The PhD student will be affiliated to the department where the principal supervisor is employed.

Employment
Employment as a PhD student at the University cannot take place before the PhD student receives the enrolment certificate from the Graduate School. This certificate serves as documentation of enrolment.
If the application is rejected, the applicant and the principal supervisor will be informed about the possibility of revising the application.

2.2 Integrated master's and PhD programme

Some faculties allow students to start their PhD programme while they are still enrolled in their master's degree programme. This is done by enrolment in one of the integrated master's/PhD programme (known as 'the flexible 4+4 or 3+5 programme'), which can be initiated after completion of a bachelor's programme and before starting a master's thesis. According to the PhD Order, such an integrated master's and PhD programme must ensure that the overall education is of the same length and at the same level as other PhD programmes (see section 5 (2) of the PhD Order).

The integrated programme is divided into parts A and B. In part A, the master's programme and one year of the PhD programme must be completed. In part B the last two years of the PhD programme must be completed. Part A cannot be completed until two years of the total enrolment period remain, which means that the duration of part B is two years.

If a PhD student withdraws from the integrated PhD programme before completion of the master's programme, he or she must be given the opportunity to complete their master's degree (see section 5 (3) of the PhD Order). The PhD Schools may draw up further guidelines.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND

Flexible PhD programme (3+5 and 4+4)

Applicants to the flexible PhD programme must fulfil all requirements as other applicants. Prior to applying for enrolment, the applicant must have a time and activity schedule indicating when the applicant will work on the master's programme and the PhD programme, respectively.

If the applicant is admitted to the 3+5 programme on the basis of a bachelor degree, the applicant must also apply for admission to a master's programme at the University of Copenhagen.

All PhD students in the 4+4 or 3+5 programme must observe any current study activity related to their master's programme. Any course or thesis activities from the master's programme cannot be credit transferred to the PhD programme. When the master's degree is obtained, the PhD student must send a master's degree diploma to the Graduate School.

2.3 Approval of credit transfer

When applying for enrolment in the PhD programme, it is possible to apply for approval of well-documented, previously acquired competences (credit transfer) and have them incorporated into the PhD programme.

Applications for credit transfers are submitted to the relevant PhD School's PhD committee, which may draw up guidelines for the procedure.
Applications for transfer of course credits can be submitted after enrolment.

- A maximum of 15 ECTS credits for courses may be transferred.
- Credit cannot be transferred for courses completed more than five years before enrolment.
- Credit transfer for courses completed as part of another study programme (e.g. master’s programme) is not possible as the ECTS credits have already been used for the preceding study programme.
- Conference and congress attendance cannot be approved as course participation.
- Fees paid for PhD courses completed up to six months before enrolment are refundable (see Reimbursement of course fees, page 14).

Merit for scientific articles
Applicants can apply for merit for scientific articles published before starting the PhD study programme. The request for merit for scientific articles must be included in the application for enrolment. Only published named articles can be considered. The publication date may not exceed three years from the enrolment date.

Merit for scientific articles cannot be granted for article(s) that form the basis of any other academic degree awarded to the applicant or for publications that were published more than three years ago (from the date of enrolment).

2.4 Part-time study
A PhD programme is normally full-time and prescribed to three years of study (see section 4 of the PhD Order). In special circumstances, it may, however, be part-time.

The PhD committee considers academic and study factors when deciding on applications to study part-time. Each faculty may draw up more detailed rules for part-time study, including transition from full-time to part-time during a PhD programme. However, the PhD programme must always account for at least 50% of working time, i.e. the prescribed period of part-time study cannot exceed six years (excluding any leave of absence). Requests for enrolment as a part-time student may be based on the nature of the research project as well as on personal matters.

Requests for part-time enrolment from PhD students employed at the UCPH must be approved by the PhD School. Where relevant, decisions on part-time enrolment must be coordinated with employment at the UCPH.

The transition to part-time PhD enrolment involves adjustment and approval of relevant parts of the PhD plan (see 2.8 below). The faculty may draw up more specific guidelines.

Please note that part-time PhD students are required to work on their PhD project for at least 18.5 hours per week.

2.5 Leave of absence
In the event of statutory leave of absence, the PhD plan must be adjusted accordingly and then approved again.

At the UCPH, the following guidelines pertain to requests for non-statutory leave of absence:

- A leave of absence can be requested for both academic and personal reasons.
- The request must be submitted in writing, and must include the reason(s) for the request and a statement from the principal supervisor.
- The PhD committee considers the academic and study-related factors.
- A leave of absence is normally not granted for less than one month or more than 12 months in total, however this does not include any statutory leave of absence.
- In the event of leave of absence, the enrolment will be extended accordingly, and the PhD plan adjusted and submitted for approval. This means that the individual concerned is not allowed to play an active role in study-related activities during the leave and is not entitled to supervision, office space etc.
- Subject to agreement by all parties, the PhD student may, however, participate in a planned PhD course that is deemed significant to their PhD programme, if that PhD course is not repeated at a later date during the enrolment.
Requests for leave of absence from PhD students employed at the UCPH must be approved by the hiring manager in consultation with the Head of the PhD School. Where relevant, decisions on leave must be coordinated with employment at the UCPH. The faculty may draw up more specific guidelines.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND
Maternity/paternity or adoption leave
The Graduate School must be notified of the commencement date of the maternity/paternity or adoption leave and of the duration of the leave.

PhD students employed at UCPH should contact their local human resources department.

For PhD students employed elsewhere, employment leave is determined by the individual employment terms.

Leave of absence
A PhD student can also apply for leave of absence for personal, academic or occupational reasons. The principal supervisor and the superior at your place of employment must approve the application.

Long-term illness
In the case of long-term illness that delays the PhD programme, PhD students employed at UCPH may apply for an extension of their employment, cf. the Collective Agreement for Academics employed by the State, appendix S, section 2(2). The principal supervisor must confirm that the PhD programme has been delayed by the illness. If an extension is granted, the enrolment will be extended automatically to the same extent.

The PhD student should submit the application when they are no longer ill and have resumed the PhD study programme.

PhD students who are not employed at the University of Copenhagen must follow the rules at their respective workplaces.

2.6 Extension of enrolment period
PhD students are usually enrolled in the PhD programme for a period of three years. PhD students whose PhD programme are delayed may submit a request for extension of the enrolment period to the PhD committee. The request must be submitted in writing, stating the reasons for the request and be supported by the principal supervisor. Any extension of the enrolment on the grounds of delay does not lead to a corresponding extension of employment.

The faculties define the limits for extensions to enrolment and to part-time enrolment for those PhD students whose PhD programme are extended beyond the normal study period.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND
The PhD student can apply for extension of the enrolment due to scientific reasons. The application must be signed by the principal supervisor before submission.

Extension of the PhD programme can be granted for a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 6 months at a time. In total, the enrolment can be extended for a maximum of 2 years. Applications are assessed by the Head of the Graduate School, who will determine if an extension can be granted. An extension of enrolment does not imply any extension of employment.

2.7 Supervision, appointment of supervisor(s) and change of supervisor(s)
PhD programmes always include supervision. PhD students are entitled to supervision and are obliged to accept it.

Each PhD student has a principal supervisor for the entire duration of the PhD programme. The principal supervisor is in charge of that student’s PhD programme, which is planned in consultation with the PhD student (see section 8 of the PhD Order). The principal supervisor’s duties are described in this section and in section 2.8 below. Additional supervisors may be appointed during the PhD programme. They must possess qualifications in the relevant subject area(s) (see section 8(2) of the PhD Order).

The principal supervisor must have several years of active research experience and must be qualified at least at the level of associate professor or senior researcher. The principal supervisor must be a researcher in the relevant subject area, must work at the faculty in question and must be familiar with the PhD programme.

The relevant faculty’s Head of the PhD School appoints the principal supervisor and any co-supervisors when the PhD
The PhD student must apply for a change of supervisor(s) (i.e. principal or co-supervisor). Applications for changes must be in writing and state the reasons. The supervisor must be consulted. In special circumstances, the Head of the PhD School may change the principal supervisor without the PhD student requesting it. The Head of the PhD School will make the decision to change supervisor in conference with the relevant manager(s).

Agreement on supervision
As part of the agreement on supervision, the PhD student and the principal supervisor must meet and complete the alignment of expectation sheet before or no later than three months after enrolment. The alignment of expectation sheet serves to ensure that the principal supervisor and the PhD student have aligned their expectations concerning the supervision’s extent and nature.

Changing supervisor
The PhD student must state a reason for any change of supervisor. The application must be approved by the PhD student and the principal supervisor.

If the principal supervisor changes job during the student’s PhD programme, and is no longer employed at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, the PhD student must change principal supervisor.

Legal incapacity
Legal incapacity applies in cases where a supervisor has e.g. a family relationship or any other close personal or financial relation to the PhD student. Furthermore, two people with a close relationship or family relationship may not be in the same supervisor group. Supervisors are obliged to consider whether they are legally
incapacitated. In cases of doubt, the supervisor must always be considered to be legally incapacitated. If such legal incapacity exists or arises, the Graduate School must be notified and another supervisor must be appointed.

External assessor
If an external assessor has been assigned in connection with the regular assessments, they must attend the regular assessment meetings.

The external assessor is expected to maintain a distance to the project and the people involved, in order to make an independent assessment at the regular assessment meetings. The external assessor should be able to deliver high-level feedback on scientific content, interpretation of data and the progress of the PhD project, and be available for in-depth feedback and follow-up on own comments after each meeting.

The external assessor may not have a close personal relationship or family relationship with anyone in the supervisor group. The external assessor may not be part of the same group of authors as the supervisors and the PhD student, and may not have co-published within three years prior to enrolment.

The external assessor may be part of the final assessment committee if the person complies with the relevant rules in that respect. The external assessor does not have to be a member of staff at the University of Copenhagen.

PhD coordinators
The PhD coordinators act as advisers on subjects that are not directly related to the scientific content of PhD projects. The PhD coordinators have been appointed at hospitals. Some graduate programmes have also appointed PhD coordinators.

PhD coordinators’ main task is to foster a good academic and social environment for the PhD students, organise events that facilitate this, and they are available for PhD students that need advice. For more information and to find a list of all the PhD coordinators, please refer to healthsciences.ku.dk/phd.
2.8 The PhD plan
All PhD students at the UCPH must have an approved PhD plan within three months of the start of their PhD programme. This also applies to PhD students who start on their PhD programme while still studying for their master’s degree.

As a minimum, the PhD plan must contain the following (see section 9 of the PhD Order):

1. A time schedule.
2. An agreement on the type of supervision provided.
3. A plan for the PhD project.
4. A plan for PhD courses, etc.
5. A plan for participation in active research environments.
6. A plan for teaching activities or other types of knowledge dissemination.
7. Any agreements about intellectual property rights.
8. A funding plan (budget).

The agreement on the type and scope of supervision must take into account the mutual expectations of the student and the supervisor(s).

If the project involves external partners outside of the UCPH, a written agreement about financial aspects, intellectual property rights and publication must also be drawn up at the time of enrolment. The agreement must be submitted for approval by the faculty.

The principal supervisor is responsible for drawing up the PhD plan and making sure it is kept up to date.

The plan must be in writing and approved by the principal supervisor and the PhD student as well as the Head of the PhD School. The plan acts as a project management tool, and should be detailed enough to form the basis for the regular assessments. The plan is a dynamic document and must be updated continuously as events warrant, e.g. in the event of major changes to the project, changes to time spent at other research environments/institutions, leave of absence etc. Major changes to the PhD plan must be submitted for approval by the Head of the PhD School.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND

The PhD plan and enrolment
At the Graduate School, the PhD plan is part of the application for enrolment and it is thus approved in connection with enrolment. If the PhD plan falls short of satisfying the requirements, the Graduate School will identify these shortcomings at the time of the enrolment.

Collaboration with external partners
In cases where the PhD project involves collaboration with external partners, the department where the principal supervisor is affiliated must ensure a collaboration agreement (agreement on intellectual property rights) is completed together with the enrolment application.

Adjustment of the PhD plan
In the event of changes, the PhD plan must be adjusted and approved by the PhD student and the supervisors. The revised PhD plan must be submitted to the Graduate School.
3. Contents of the PhD programme

In the PhD programme, the student must:

1. Carry out independent research under supervision (the PhD project).
2. Complete PhD courses or other similar programme elements totalling approx. 30 ECTS credits.
3. Participate in active research environments, including stays at other institutions (mainly abroad), private research companies, etc.
4. Gain experience of teaching activities or other form of knowledge dissemination related to the PhD student’s PhD project.
5. Write a PhD thesis on the basis of the PhD project.
6. See section 7 of the PhD Order.

3.1 The research project
The research project constitutes the core of the PhD programme and serves as the basis for the PhD thesis. It may be part of an independent project or a part of a larger research project. If it is part of a larger project, the PhD student’s contribution to the overall project must be clearly defined and structured in a way that complies with the purpose(s) of the PhD programme, including its scope, scientific/academic content and independent nature.

3.2 Courses
As mentioned in section 3 above, PhD students must complete coursework or other similar programme elements totalling approx. 30 ECTS credits, which corresponds to six months of study.

All PhD students at the UCPH are required to pass a PhD course in the responsible conduct of research as part of their PhD programme.

The PhD Schools announce its PhD courses on their faculty websites. PhD courses must be approved by the PhD committee, see Section 16b (2), item 3 of the University Act. These PhD courses may be of a specific academic nature or of a general, research-relevant nature, e.g. writing articles in English, research ethics or patenting. As mentioned in 3.3 below, the UCPH is obliged to offer all PhD students a course in knowledge dissemination (see section 8 (3) of the PhD Order).

Pending successful completion of these PhD courses, the PhD student is entitled to a certificate of completion, which describes the scope of the completed PhD course and which certifies that the PhD student has completed the courses successfully.

PhD courses run by other providers in Denmark and abroad can also make up part of the PhD programme. PhD students must obtain the principal supervisor’s approval before registering for and taking part in these external PhD courses. External PhD courses must comply with the requirements set by the PhD committee of the PhD School. The faculty may draw up guidelines for participation in PhD courses offered by course providers other than the UCPH.

Where relevant, the individual faculty draws up guidelines for the composition of the entire PhD coursework.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND
Courses
A PhD student at SUND must complete courses corresponding to a minimum of 28 ECTS and maximum 35 ECTS credits. A detailed course plan does not have to be in place at the time of enrolment. However, the PhD student must draw up the course plan in collaboration with their principal supervisor.

Courses offered by the Graduate School
The Graduate School is part of the agreement on ‘open market for PhD courses at universities belonging to the organisation Universities Denmark’.

All courses are free of charge for PhD students enrolled at Danish universities, except CBS. Other course participants must pay a course fee. Exceptions are guest PhD students and PhD students from NorDoc universities, who can participate for free if seats are vacant. The Graduate School sets the rules regarding course payment for participants who are not enrolled at a Danish university.

Seats on PhD courses are allocated according to the agreement on Open Market for PhD courses. On specialised PhD courses 20 percent of the seats are reserved for PhD students from Danish universities (except CBS) and 80 percent for PhD students from SUND. If the reserved seats are taken, applicants will be put on the waiting list. On generic PhD courses all seats are reserved for PhD Students enrolled at SUND. Other applicants will be put on the waiting list.
Cancellation and absence fees
The Graduate School works with the following rules concerning cancellation and absence fees:

› Cancellations made up to two weeks before the course starts are free of charge.
› Cancellations made less than two weeks before the course starts will be charged an amount corresponding to the course fee for external participants.
› Participants with less than 80% attendance cannot pass the course and will be charged an amount equal to the course fee for external participants.
› Participants who fail to hand in any mandatory exams or assignments cannot pass the course and will be charged an amount equal to the course fee for external participants.

If the participant does not comply with the above cancellation policy or has not attended the course due to illness or other reasons, the Graduate School may waive the course fee, if the participant provides documentation from the participant’s employer stating that the participant has been legally absent from the workplace.

Mandatory courses
PhD students must complete the mandatory course “Responsible Conduct of Research 1: An Introduction” within the first 12 months of their enrolment.

PhD students enrolled after 1 August 2020 must furthermore complete the mandatory course “Responsible Conduct of Research 2: Getting Ready for Submission of Manuscripts and Thesis”. The course should be taken when the PhD student has less than 12 months left of their enrolment period.

The courses on responsible conduct of research must be passed before the PhD student can submit their thesis. Courses offered by the graduate programmes may be mandatory for affiliated PhD students. Such mandatory courses may total a maximum of 10 ECTS.

External courses
Participation in courses offered by other providers must be approved by the PhD Study Board.

Certain rules apply for external courses:

› The course must have scientific relevance to the PhD project.
› The principal supervisor must approve participation in the course.
› You can apply for approval for an external course after completion.
› The Graduate School does not grant pre-approval of external courses.
› Applications with courses of less than 0.5 ECTS or less than 5 hours of teaching will not be processed.
› PhD Students can get a maximum of 5 ECTS approved in total for courses from course platforms as Coursera, edX and the like.

Symposia, congresses and conferences
Participation in symposia, congresses and conferences is considered part of the PhD student’s dissemination activities. Consequently, such activities cannot be approved as part of the course plan or lead to reimbursement.
ECTS calculation

1 ECTS credit equals 25 work hours. In practice, one course hour results in 0.1 ECTS credits, since a preparation factor of 1.5 is assumed.

Reimbursement of course fees

A PhD student may apply for reimbursement from the Graduate School to cover the course fee for up to two courses offered by other providers. You may also apply for reimbursement for courses taken up to six months before enrolment. PhD students will be reimbursed according to the applicable rules for reimbursement.

The Graduate School will reimburse the course fee, but not additional costs such as accommodation or travel costs.

3.3 Teaching activities and knowledge dissemination

As part of the PhD programme, all PhD students must acquire experience of teaching and other types of knowledge dissemination related to the PhD student’s PhD project (see section 7 (2), fourth sentence of the PhD Order).

The scope of the requirement for experience of teaching activities or other forms of knowledge dissemination is not specified in the PhD Order, and can be part of the University’s obligation to offer PhD students work to the extent of 840 working hours for the hiring institution (see Agreement covering academics in the state sector, appendix 5, protocol on PhD students, section 7 (2)), which is often carried out as teaching activities.

According to the protocol on PhD students, the hiring authority is obliged to offer the PhD student work to the extent of 840 working hours for the hiring institution when employed full-time for three years. The hiring authority is obliged to pay the PhD student a full salary, even if the hiring authority does not utilise the 840 working hours. The PhD student may, by agreement with the University, choose to reduce part of the 840 working hours or decline the offer against a corresponding salary reduction.

For employment for less than the standard three years, the 840 working hours will be reduced proportionately. The 840 working hours may not be used for administrative tasks, but may be used for tasks within communication, teaching, research, library work, committee work or other academic tasks that can reduce the workload of the other academic staff members.

The UCPH can offer non-employed PhD students an hourly wage for teaching assignments, assistance with research projects, dissemination and other work that can reduce the workload of the other academic staff members, see appendix 5c of the Agreement for academics, ‘Agreement on remuneration of PhD students in connection with the PhD programme’ . There is no upper limit on the number of working hours in such positions.

The University may not encourage PhD students to work without compensation or to work more than the 840 hours for any part of the UCPH institutions. In addition, the work tasks performed by the PhD students in order to comply with the 840 working hours requirement must be planned as far ahead as possible jointly by the supervisor, the PhD student, the Head of Department and, if relevant, the Head of Studies of the programme in question.

Finally, the PhD student’s 840 working hours must to the greatest possible extent be compatible with the work on their PhD project, so that the subject matter of the 840 working hours is relevant to, or falls naturally within, the PhD student’s field of research.

PhD students’ teaching activities will often account for the 840 working hours (cf. Agreement for academics in the state sector, appendix 5, protocol on PhD students) through which they acquired teaching experience, but the teaching and knowledge dissemination requirements in the PhD Order apply to all PhD students and should, in terms of scope, only account for a limited proportion of the full PhD programme content. In other words, a distinction is made between the 840 working hours and experience gained from teaching activities, even though the two can be combined if teaching is part of the 840 working hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND

Knowledge dissemination

The PhD student must confirm in the PhD plan that knowledge dissemination will be conducted. The PhD student’s graduate programme may also have specific requirements regarding knowledge dissemination, for instance by participating in meetings.
Teaching activities and work obligations under the collective agreement with the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations

During the PhD study programme, PhD students employed under the collective agreement with the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations may be required to work for the institution. The conditions are:

› The PhD student can only be required to undertake teaching or other forms of knowledge dissemination related to the individual PhD student’s PhD project.

› By agreement with the principal supervisor, PhD students may, if they so wish, undertake teaching that is not related to the individual student’s PhD project, but the institution may not require this of the PhD student.

Teaching activities and work obligations under other collective agreements

For PhD students employed under other collective agreements than with the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations, the number of hours for special work tasks that may be required by the institution is not specified.

Irrespective of which collective agreement the PhD student is employed under, the Dean’s office and the heads of department expect PhD students to be assigned to teach e.g. courses and exercises equivalent to an average of maximum 100 teaching hours per year.

3.4 Participation in other research environments

PhD students must participate in other or several other active research environments, including during stays at research institutions abroad, private research companies et al. (see section 7 (2) of the PhD Order). The PhD Order does not specify the scope of this activity. The requirement can be met in many ways and adapted to suit the nature of the PhD project. The principal supervisor has a special responsibility to ensure that the PhD student has the opportunity to establish contact with researchers outside the UCPH, and preferably abroad.

Stays at other research institutions or private research companies must be organised in such a way that PhD students are able to continue with their research work, knowledge dissemination etc. during the stay. Activities at another research institution or private research company must usually be approved in advance by the principal supervisor (see 3.2 above).

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND

PhD students at the Graduate School of Health and Medical Sciences must spend part of the PhD programme in another research environment, preferably abroad. The duration of the stay(s) must total at least one month. If possible, longer stays are preferred because they give the PhD student the time and opportunity to develop networks with international research groups. As a rule of thumb, a stay at a co-supervisor’s research facility within the same department cannot be approved as a stay in another research environment. Participation in conferences, courses or congresses is not accepted as a change of environment.

The change of research environment must be completed within your enrolment period.

Financial support for change of research environment

If your change of research environment lasts at least four weeks in total and is completed abroad or at a research institution in Denmark located outside the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Zealand, you can apply for financial support. The Graduate School supports the costs of travel, housing/accommodation, health insurance, visa and local transport.

It is possible to apply for financial support for a maximum of two times, and each application must cover a stay of at least four weeks.
4. Regular assessments

The PhD School is required to conduct regular assessments of whether the PhD student is following the PhD plan (see section 10 of the PhD Order). A minimum of three rounds of assessments must be conducted in the course of a three-year PhD programme. The regular assessments should be conducted at specific times during the programme:

Three-year programmes: At 26, 14 and 6 months remaining

Four-year programmes: At 38, 26, 14 and 6 months remaining

Five-year programmes: At 50, 38, 26, 14 and 6 months remaining

4.1 Contents of the assessments

On the basis of the regular assessments, the PhD School will assess whether the PhD student is following the PhD plan. The assessment is based on a written report from the principal supervisor, who either confirms that the PhD student is following the plan or accounts for any adjustments needed. Prior to writing the report, the principal supervisor must consult the PhD student to discuss their progress.

If the principal supervisor finds that the PhD programme is not progressing in accordance with the PhD plan, the written report must describe the deviations from the overall plan. The principal supervisor must account for the deviations in a way that allows the PhD student to address each point of criticism specifically. This is called a negative assessment. The assessment must take full account of any documented illness, maternity/paternity leave or other approved leaves of absence.

If a negative assessment is submitted, the PhD student must be allowed at least two weeks to submit their comments to the written report.

Each faculty may draw up more detailed guidelines for this.

4.2 Rectification and termination of enrolment

Negative assessments must be submitted to the Head of the PhD School together with the PhD student’s response. If the Head of the PhD School finds that the PhD student has not adhered to the (adjusted) PhD plan, the PhD student must be informed in writing and given three months to redress the situation (i.e. to produce a rectification plan).

The rectification plan must clearly stipulate what the PhD student is to accomplish during the three-month rectification period. The three-month period does not trigger an extension to the PhD programme, and the PhD student is only entitled to one such period during a PhD programme in total (see section 10 (2) of the PhD Order).

At the earliest opportunity after the rectification period, the Head of the PhD School will conduct a new assessment based on a new report from the principal supervisor. The PhD student must be allowed two weeks to respond to the principal supervisor’s report. If the assessment is still negative, the PhD student’s enrolment in the PhD programme will be terminated (see section 10 (3) and (4) of the PhD Order). The PhD student has two weeks from the day he or she is informed of the decision by the Head of the PhD School to appeal against it to the Dean.

If enrolment is terminated, employment as a PhD student is also automatically terminated without notice. The faculty will inform the HR department, which terminates the employment.

The faculty will also inform any other employer(s) that the
PhD student is no longer enrolled in the PhD programme (see section 10 (4) of the PhD Order).

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND
If the principal supervisor assesses that the PhD student does not adequately follow the PhD plan, the principal supervisor must notify the Graduate School, e.g. in connection with a regular assessment. The Graduate School will handle the process of the rectification case.

If the PhD student experiences difficulties during the PhD study programme, e.g. with a supervisor, they may contact the Graduate School or the PhD coordinator for guidance.

4.3 Satisfactory completion
The final assessment of the PhD student’s PhD programme will be submitted when the PhD student submits the PhD thesis. The principal supervisor must submit a report about the entire PhD programme no later than one week after thesis submission. The report must be accompanied by a full list of the individual programme elements, including teaching and knowledge dissemination, affiliation with other research environments, participation in courses, including specification of ECTS credits etc. The report is drawn up in collaboration with any additional supervisors.

A PhD thesis can only be submitted for assessment if the Head of the PhD School deems that the overall PhD programme has been completed satisfactorily (see section 15 of the PhD Order).

4.4 Failing satisfactory completion
If the principal supervisor states in the report that the PhD programme was not satisfactorily completed, the PhD student has two weeks to submit a written response (see section 14 (2) of the PhD Order). On the basis of the principal supervisor’s report, any comments by the PhD student and the regular assessments, the Head of the PhD School assesses whether the PhD programme has been completed satisfactorily. If the assessment is that the PhD programme was not completed satisfactorily, the PhD student is granted up to three months to rectify the situation (see 4.2 above).

The PhD student has two weeks from the day he or she is informed of the decision by the Head of the PhD School in which to appeal against it to the Dean. If the PhD student agrees to the offer of recovery, enrolment in the PhD programme is extended accordingly. A new assessment will then be made.

Employment as a PhD student cannot be extended.

If the PhD programme has not been completed satisfactorily, the PhD student’s enrolment is terminated.
5. PhD thesis, defence and award of the PhD degree

5.1 Requirements for the PhD thesis
At the end of the PhD programme, a PhD thesis must be submitted. The PhD thesis is submitted in an electronic version for use in the assessment and in a number of printed copies if required by the faculty.

Upon submission of the PhD thesis, the author is given a receipt documenting that the PhD thesis has been submitted for assessment. A PhD thesis cannot be jointly submitted for assessment by two or more authors. The PhD thesis must contain an abstract in both Danish and English (see section 12 (3) of the PhD Order). If the PhD thesis includes articles or draft articles written in collaboration with others, written declarations from the first author and the co-authors must be attached stating the contribution made by the author of the PhD thesis to the work (see section 12 of the PhD Order).

The front page of the PhD thesis must state that it has been submitted to the UCPH and the name of the faculty to which it is submitted. The UCPH’s front page for PhD theses may be used for the PhD thesis.

The PhD student’s enrolment at the UCPH ends when the thesis is submitted (see section 13 of the PhD Order). However, the principal supervisor and the department are expected to assist the PhD student in the period up until the defence. Employment as a PhD student terminates automatically when the PhD thesis is submitted.

Further requirements for the PhD thesis and for its submission are stipulated by the faculty.

### SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND

According to §11 of the Ministerial order on the PhD programme the PhD thesis must document the PhD student’s or the author’s ability to apply relevant scientific methods and to carry out research work meeting the international standards for PhD degrees within the field in question.

**Format**

A thesis may either be written as a monograph or as a synopsis with manuscripts/papers included. As a general rule, the PhD student may not copy text directly from own manuscripts/papers. This is perceived as potential self-plagiarism and is not acceptable.

**Monograph**

The monograph is typically 100 pages long, but the number of pages can vary. The monograph should include the following elements:

- Summaries in Danish and English
- Objectives
- Description of the research project placed in the context of international state-of-the-art research within the subject area
- Description of the research carried out (including materials, methods and results)
- If required for the studies, information on ethical and legal permits and approvals
- Discussion of results
- Conclusions and perspectives for further research
- References

**Synopsis**

The synopsis-based thesis consists of a synopsis and published papers and/or unpublished manuscripts. There are no specific requirements concerning the number or type of first or co-authored papers/manuscripts.

The synopsis is typically 30-60 pages long (papers or manuscripts not included), but there are no specific requirements concerning the number of pages in the synopsis. The synopsis should clearly and concisely encapsulate and discuss the research findings presented in the manuscripts/papers included in the thesis. The synopsis should at least include:

- Summaries in Danish and English (a requirement according to the PhD Order section 12, subsection 3)
- Objectives
- Methods
- Description of the research project placed in the context of international state-of-the-art research within the subject area
- Summary of the results of the papers and their relation to international state-of-the-art research within the subject area
- If required for the studies, information on ethical and legal permits and approvals
- Conclusions and perspectives for further research
- References
- Chapters consisting of any papers or manuscripts included in the thesis. The chapters must appear in the end of the thesis.
Declarations of co-authorship
If a manuscript or published paper has ten or less co-authors, all co-authors must sign a declaration of co-authorship. If it has more than ten co-authors, declarations of co-authorship from the corresponding author(s), the senior author and the principal supervisor (if relevant) are a minimum requirement.

The contribution of the PhD student must be described in the co-authorship declaration if an article or manuscript is also included in a co-author’s thesis.

Specific requirements
When handing in the thesis, the following must be stated on the title page: ‘This thesis has been submitted to the Graduate School of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen.’

The red UCPH logo must be included on the cover of the thesis. The layout, font, image use, etc. are agreed between the PhD student and the supervisor. A PhD thesis should be written in English.

Submission of thesis
The thesis must be submitted by email as one merged OCR-readable PDF document to the Graduate School. When you have submitted your thesis, you cannot make any corrections or changes to it. This includes corrections of content, misspellings or changes of layout. However, minor changes in layout required for publication of the thesis are allowed.

Screening of thesis
The Faculty screens all PhD theses for duplicate texts immediately after submission and prior to forwarding the theses to the assessment committees.

Printing of thesis
The PhD thesis may be printed, once it has been recommended for defence. It is the PhD student’s responsibility that copies of the PhD thesis are available to the public. The Graduate School pays for 12 copies of the thesis per PhD student through an agreement with UCPH’s in-house printing service, Campus Print, on the printing of PhD theses. Please note that this includes two copies for the statutory delivery of publications to the Royal Danish Library.

5.2 Assessment committee
The PhD thesis and the defence are assessed by an assessment committee. A three-member assessment committee is appointed no later than at the time of submission of the PhD thesis (see section 16 of the PhD Order). The members must be qualified at associate professor or senior researcher level or higher in the relevant subject area. Two of the members must be external researchers, i.e. not employed at the UCPH. At least one of the members must be from outside Denmark, unless this is not practicable for the subject in question (see section 16 (2) of the PhD Order). The third member is usually from the faculty concerned and is appointed by the faculty to chair the assessment committee. Every effort should be made to ensure that both genders are represented on the assessment committee. Co-authors of articles included in the

PhD thesis are not eligible to be members of the assessment committee. Similarly, the general rules that apply to conflicts of interest must also be upheld (see part 2, sections 3-6 of the Danish Public Administration Act).

The PhD student’s supervisors may not be members of the assessment committee, but the principal supervisor will be appointed as an adviser to the assessment committee without voting rights (see section 16 (2) of the PhD order). In this capacity, the principal supervisor must answer questions about the PhD programme and the academic progression in the PhD student’s research project. The principal supervisor may be invited to any meetings held by the assessment committee for this purpose. The principal supervisor cannot act as secretary to the committee.

For PhD students with scholarships from the Industrial PhD scheme (industrial PhD students), at least one of the members of the assessment committee must have research experience relevant to the company concerned and in the relevant field of study (see section 27 of the PhD Order), but is not allowed to be employed by the same company as the PhD student.

When proposals for the composition of the assessment committee have been submitted to the PhD School, the PhD committee nominates the composition of the assessment committee to the Dean (see section 16b (2) item 2 of the Danish University Act) (at the UCPH this authority is delegated from the Rector to the Dean). The author is notified as soon as the composition of the assessment committee has been approved. The author has one week to raise any objections to the composition of the assessment committee.
committee. Additional guidelines for the appointment of assessment committees are set by the individual faculty.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND
The principal supervisor and the PhD student are responsible for submitting the form concerning nomination of an assessment committee to the Graduate School approximately two months before the expected date of submission of the thesis. The principal supervisor must sign a statement confirming that the PhD programme is completed satisfactorily, and the statement has to be uploaded when completing the form.

The recommended chairperson must be employed as an associate professor, senior researcher, professor, clinical associate professor or clinical professor at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences. As concerns the two external members of the assessment committee, there must be one representative from a Danish research institution and one representative from a research institution outside of Denmark.

At least one of the two external members must be employed at a university as associate professor or higher in the relevant subject area. Senior researchers employed at Danish universities and the government research institutions are considered to be at associate professor level. One of the external members may be emeritus/emerita if they are still active researchers. The use of emeriti in the assessment committee must be reasoned when you nominate the assessment committee, and a CV and publications list must be forwarded. The academic level, employment and affiliation is considered at the time of appointment of the assessment committee.

Persons who are co-authors of articles published together with the PhD student may not be on the assessment committee.

The PhD student is not allowed to contact the assessment committee once it has been formally appointed. Communication with the assessment committee must be undertaken by the principal supervisor. However, once the PhD thesis has been recommend for defence, the PhD student may have contact with the assessment committee concerning the practical planning of the PhD defence. The assessment of the thesis must not be discussed.

Payment of the assessors
The Graduate School pays the following expenses:

› Fee for external assessors.
› Travelling expenses and accommodation (one night for assessors from Europe and two nights for assessors from outside Europe).
› One lunch or dinner for the assessment committee and the principal supervisor and primary co-supervisor (does not include the PhD student).

5.3 Preliminary assessment and any revision
The assessment committee has two months after submission of the PhD thesis to make its recommendation to the faculty about whether the PhD thesis fulfils the requirements for the award of the PhD degree. The committee must present their arguments for the recommendation, and, in the event of disagreement, the majority will prevail. A copy of the recommendation must be sent to the author. If the recommendation is favourable, the defence of the thesis can take place (see section 18 of the PhD Order).

If the assessment is that the PhD thesis is not suited for defence, the assessment committee must state whether a revised version may be submitted and, if so, set a deadline for resubmission (see section 18 (3) of the PhD Order). A recommendation stating that the PhD thesis is not suited for defence must be clearly justified.

If the recommendation is ‘not suited for defence’, the author and principal supervisor, which are consulted separately, have two weeks to submit their comments.

If the recommendation of the assessment committee is that the PhD thesis is ‘not suited for defence’, the Head of the PhD School has to make one of the following decisions based on the assessment committee’s recommendation and the comments made by the author and the principal supervisor (see section 18 (4), items 1-3 of the PhD Order):

› The defence does not take place.
› The PhD thesis may be resubmitted in revised form within a minimum of three months. Except in special circumstances, a resubmitted thesis will be assessed by the same committee as the original submission.
› The PhD thesis is assessed by a new assessment committee.

The author may appeal the decision made by the Head of
the PhD School, see section 6.1 of the Complaints Guide.

5.4 Announcement of defence
All PhD defences at the UCPH are public and are usually announced on the faculties’ websites. The author assists with the necessary material for announcing the defence. The faculty may draw up additional guidelines for announcing defences.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND
It is the principal supervisor’s responsibility to organise the defence. Three weeks before the defence, the PhD student must inform the Graduate School of the time, date and venue of the defence by submitting a form. The defence is then publicly announced by the Graduate School.

5.5 Postponement of defence
The defence takes place no earlier than two weeks after the assessment committee’s submission of its preliminary recommendation and no later than three months after the submission of the PhD thesis (see section 20 (2) of the PhD order). However, in special circumstances, the Head of the PhD School may postpone the defence. Postponement of the defence is subject to an agreement between the author and the faculty, where a new date and time is set (see section 20 (3) of the PhD Order).

5.6 Defence
The PhD thesis is defended in public. At the defence, the author is given the opportunity to explain their work and defend the PhD thesis before the members of the assessment committee. The PhD thesis must be available to the public in reasonable time before the defence (see section 19 of the PhD order), normally at least two weeks in advance.

A PhD defence cannot be held in private, and any confidential parts of the research project may not form the basis for awarding the PhD degree.

Under exceptional circumstances, the PhD School may decide, in consultation with the author, that the planned defence can be held with only two members of the assessment committee present (see section 19 (3) of the PhD Order).

A permanently employed member of the academic staff (except for the supervisor(s)) with insight into the subject area of the PhD thesis moderates the defence on behalf of the Head of the PhD School.

The entire defence may take a maximum of three hours, including any breaks. The author is given up to 45 minutes to present the main findings of the PhD thesis, and the assessment committee then asks the author questions based on the thesis and the presentation. At the end of the defence, the audience is given the opportunity to ask the author questions based on the thesis and the presentation. The moderator must ensure that the defence proceeds in a dignified manner and may, if necessary, interrupt or prolong the defence.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND
Defence format
The defence normally takes place in English and can take place as a video conference if necessary. In order for the defence to be conducted in Danish, all members of the assessment committee must agree to this and the chairperson must ensure that there are no non-Danish speaking persons in the audience.

5.7 Award of the PhD degree
At the end of the defence, the assessment committee makes a final assessment of whether the author of the thesis can be awarded the PhD degree. Regardless of the result of the deliberations, the committee must immediately inform the author orally of its final recommendation. If this is not possible, the author must be informed of when the final recommendation will be made. The PhD School must have received a final written recommendation within one week of the defence. The reasons for the recommendation must be stated, and in the event of disagreement, the majority vote will prevail.

The PhD degree may be awarded if the assessment committee submits a recommendation (see section 22 of the PhD Order). The PhD degree is awarded by the Academic Council (see section 15 (2), item 4 of the Danish University Act). If the assessment committee’s recommendation is negative, the author has the option, within two weeks of receiving the final written recommendation, to submit comments.

The Head of the PhD School may decide that the thesis be assessed by a new assessment committee, if requested by the author (see section 21 (2) of the PhD Order).

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND
If the assessment committee is unable to agree on whether the PhD student should be awarded the PhD degree, each assessor’s recommendation and comments must be sent to the Graduate School.

5.8 Binding collaboration on PhD programmes with non-Danish institutions – joint and double degrees
The PhD Schools at the UCPH may award joint and double PhD degrees to PhD students who have acquired qualifications equivalent to a Danish PhD, provided a mutually binding agreement has been made with one or more non-Danish institutions on PhD programmes. The agreement must cover study visits, assessment, defence, degree awarding, etc. (see section 15 (3) and section 23 (3-5) of the PhD Order). This applies both when the UCPH is the main institution and the PhD student is on a study visit at the non-Danish institution abroad, and when the partner institution is the main institution and the PhD student is on a study visit at the UCPH.

(Partner institutions cannot be other faculties at the University of Copenhagen, other Danish universities or private/public companies.)

5.8a The UCPH is the main institution
For PhD students whose main institution is the UCPH, agreement may be reached with one or more non-Danish institutions on a mutually binding partnership agreement on PhD programmes, including assessment, defence, degree awarding, etc., which involves the PhD student being awarded a joint PhD degree or a double degree. The PhD student must complete the PhD programme as stipulated in the Danish PhD Order, and if any need arises to deviate from key points, e.g. the course requirement in section 7 (2), item 2 or the prescribed period of study for the PhD programme in section 4, an application for dispensation must be submitted to the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education. The PhD student must, as a minimum, complete a six-month study visit at the non-Danish institution.

The mutually binding agreement must be signed no later than six months after the start of the PhD programme. The agreement covers supervision at the non-Danish institution, duration of stay at the non-Danish institution, agreement on IPR and the organisation of assessment and defence, including certificate.

Each PhD School may draw up additional guidelines.

5.8b A non-Danish institution is the main institution
For PhD students whose main institution is a non-Danish institution, agreement may be reached on a mutually binding collaboration agreement on PhD programmes, including assessment, defence, degree awarding, etc., which involves the PhD student being awarded a joint PhD degree or a double degree. The PhD student completes...
the PhD programme as per the guidelines and regulations that apply at the non-Danish institution, if necessary with supplementary requirements placed by the PhD School. The PhD student must spend at least six months on a study visit to the UCPH PhD School, be assigned a supervisor at the UCPH and successfully complete the UCPH’s PhD course in Responsible Conduct of Research. The PhD School must also determine whether the programme as a whole meets the requirement that the qualifications obtained are equivalent to a Danish PhD degree.

The collaboration agreement and enrolment must be signed no later than six months after the start of the PhD programme. The agreement covers supervision at the non-Danish institution, duration of stay at the non-Danish institution, agreement on IPR and the organisation of assessment and defence, including certificate.

Each PhD School may draw up additional guidelines.

5.8 c Agreement on assessment, defence and certificate

The following conditions concerning assessment committee, defence and certificate are valid for all PhD students who complete a PhD programme as part of a binding agreement between the UCPH PhD School and one or more non-Danish institutions – irrespective of whether the UCPH is the main institution.

The agreement between the PhD School, the non-Danish institution(s) and the PhD student must stipulate the procedure for completing the degree. This must include: composition of the assessment committee (see section 26 (1) of the PhD Order), the deadline for the preliminary assessment (see section 26 (2) of the PhD Order) and where and when the defence will take place (see section 26 (3) of the PhD Order).

The agreement must also stipulate whether the PhD thesis is to be defended jointly or defended on two (or more) occasions before the PhD student is awarded a PhD degree by the non-Danish institution(s) that is/are party to the agreement (see section 15 (3) and section 26 of the PhD Order).

Agreement must also be reached on whether the PhD student is awarded a joint degree (see section 23 (3) and (4) of the PhD Order) or awarded a double degree, i.e. a diploma awarded by each of the participating institutions (see section 23 (5) of the PhD Order).

5.9 Submission of thesis without enrolment

Under certain circumstances, the PhD School may decide that a PhD thesis may be accepted for assessment without the author having completed a PhD programme, if the PhD programme has been interrupted, or if the PhD committee deems that the author has acquired qualifications equivalent to a PhD degree in other ways (see section 15 (2) of the PhD Order). When submitting a thesis in this way, the author must state whether it has been assessed before. Whether the author has a documented affiliation with the UCPH will form part of the consideration of the application for submission of a thesis without prior enrolment. When assessing a PhD thesis at the UCPH without prior enrolment, the PhD School may ask the author to pay all of the expenses associated with assessment, defence, etc. according to the PhD School’s fixed rate. The author may apply to be
exempted from these expenses.

The PhD School may draw up additional guidelines.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND
An application for submission of a thesis under section 15(2) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and the following must be enclosed with the application:

› A project description or the completed thesis.
› Documentation of qualifications equivalent to a completed PhD programme (in particular courses, teaching and dissemination experience and change of research environment).
› A statement from the university representative.
› Documentation of the affiliation with the UCPH.

The PhD Study Board will decide whether the author has acquired qualifications similar or comparable to those described in the PhD programme at the Faculty. If approved, the thesis must be submitted within one year.

The author must complete the Graduate School’s mandatory PhD courses in responsible conduct of research; RCR1 and RCR2, before the thesis is submitted.

5.10 Documentation of the PhD programme and the PhD degree
If the PhD degree is awarded, a PhD certificate is issued in Danish and English and signed by the Rector and the Dean of the faculty concerned. The UCPH’s common template for PhD certificates must be used. The certificate contains information about the subject area, the subject of the PhD thesis and information about the PhD programme as completed (see section 23 of the PhD Order) and includes an appendix in Danish and English with information about approved PhD courses and stays abroad.

PhD students who are not awarded a PhD degree may request documentation in Danish and English of the elements of the PhD programme they have completed satisfactorily (see section 24 of the PhD Order).

5.11 Archiving and access to the thesis
The UCPH is obliged to keep a copy of the PhD thesis. This is the responsibility of the faculty concerned.

In all other respects, the PhD thesis is the property of the author and may not – apart from the requirement in the PhD Order stipulating that it must be publicly available in reasonable time before the defence – be lent, sold or made available to others without the author’s written permission. If, for example, the PhD thesis is uploaded to the Internet prior to the defence, it must be uploaded in a manner that prevents it from being copied or printed. Copies made available for review at the UCPH or libraries etc. must be removed after the defence, unless the author has agreed in writing to wider distribution, e.g. digital publication, sale or for lending in public libraries.
6. Appeals and exemptions

6.1 Appeals procedure
Decisions made by the UCPH pursuant to the PhD Order may be referred to the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education if the appeal concerns legal issues. Appeals must be submitted within two weeks of the complainant having been informed of the decision (see section 29 of the PhD Order). The appeal must be submitted to the PhD School, which will issue a statement. For the further procedure, reference is made to the complaints guide on https://phd.ku.dk/english/. Appeals against decisions made by the Head of the PhD School or by the PhD Committee about study conditions that do not concern legal issues may be referred to the Dean. The appeal must be submitted within two weeks of the complainant being informed of the decision. The appeal must be submitted in writing, and the grounds must be specified.

6.2 Exemptions
The Dean may grant exemptions from rules set exclusively by the UCPH. The Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education may, in special cases, grant an exemption from the PhD Order (see section 28 of the PhD Order).

Subject to agreement with the Rector, the Dean may also agree to general deviations from rules set exclusively by the UCPH, provided special circumstances at the faculty in question warrant such change(s).

7. Evaluation

The activities of the PhD Schools are subject to evaluation, including regular international evaluations. The Head of the PhD School and the Dean must arrange for follow-up on the evaluations. Evaluations and follow-up plans must be published (see section 16b (5) of the Danish University Act).

PhD students may be requested to submit an evaluation of their PhD programme on completion of the programme.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND
The Graduate School conducts a PhD student evaluation. A questionnaire will be sent by email to PhD students who have submitted their PhD thesis and the responses are gathered in an annual evaluation report. The evaluation provides the Graduate School with input on the PhD students’ experiences to ensure that informed decisions can be made when adjustments and changes to the PhD programme are needed.
8. Funding

PhD programmes are subject to tuition fees. The faculties calculate and publish their tuition fees annually. Fees may be higher for particularly expensive projects. The faculty may grant full scholarships or reduce tuition fees. When awarding PhD scholarships, tuition fees and fees for the assessment and the defence are usually included in the scholarship.

The faculty must always ensure that the resources are available for each individual PhD student to complete the programme as described in the student’s PhD plan (see section 8 (5) of the PhD Order).

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AT SUND

Funding and tuition fee

For PhD students enrolled at SUND there are different ways to finance their studies. Usually one of the below or a combination:

› Employment at SUND
› Employment at a hospital, institution or a company
› Funding from Innovation Fund Denmark (Industrial PhD)
› Scholarship from their home country
› Self-funding

Enrolment requires that funding for salary is secured for at least one third of the enrolment period and a plan is made for obtaining funding for the remaining period.

Enrolment at the Graduate School is subject to an annual tuition fee. The enrolment application must include a funding plan and documentation regarding payment of the tuition fee to the Graduate School. The tuition fee is charged for three years and is not postponed during any absence from the three-year PhD programme such as maternity/paternity leave, other leaves of absence or long-term illness. If the PhD thesis is submitted before study year two or three and the tuition fee has already been charged, excess tuition fee can be reimbursed upon application.

The tuition fee must be paid to the Graduate School of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, in three instalments:

1st rate: DKK 50,000 is paid at enrolment
2nd rate: DKK 50,000 is paid in the first quarter of the calendar year following enrolment
3rd rate: DKK 50,000 is paid in the first quarter of the second calendar year following enrolment.

9. Transitional rules

PhD students who commenced their PhD programme before 1 September 2013 are entitled to complete their PhD programme in accordance with the Ministerial Order no. 18 of 14 January 2008, while the assessment and defence of the thesis, as well as the decision to award the PhD degree, are subject to the provisions of Ministerial Order no. 1039 of 27 August 2013 (see section 30 (3) of the PhD Order).

PhD students who commenced their PhD programme before 1 September 2013 may submit a request to the PhD Committee for permission to complete the programme pursuant to the provisions of Ministerial Order no. 1039 of 27 August 2013.
PhD Order No. 1039 of 27 August 2013

Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme at the Universities and Certain Higher Artistic Educational Institutions (PhD Order)

Pursuant to section 8(1) and section 34(1) of the Danish Act on Universities (the University Act), see Consolidation Act no. 367 of 25 March 2013, and section 10(1), section 12 and section 15(2) of the Act on Higher Artistic Educational Institutions, see Consolidation Act no. 465 of 8 May 2013, the following is stipulated:

Part 1 – Purpose, structure etc.

Section 1. The PhD programme is a research programme aiming to train PhD students at an international level to independently undertake research, development and teaching assignments in the private and public sectors, for which a broad knowledge of research is required.

(2) The PhD programme mainly comprises active research training under supervision.

Section 2. The ministerial order applies to PhD programmes at the universities and at the higher artistic educational institutions under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education.

(2) The institutions, see subsection (1), may award the PhD degree within fields within which they carry out research and within which they have set up a PhD school, either independently or in cooperation with other institutions covered by the ministerial order.

Section 3. The PhD degree is awarded to students who have successfully completed the PhD programme, see however section 15(2) and (3), and successfully defended their PhD thesis.

(2) Persons who have been awarded a PhD degree have the right to use the title of PhD.

Section 4. The PhD programme is equivalent to 180 ECTS points and normally takes the form of full-time studies; however, the institutions may lay down rules providing for part-time studies.

(2) 60 ECTS points correspond to one year of full-time studies.

Part 2 – Admission etc. to the PhD programme

Section 5. Admission to the PhD programme is based on a master’s degree or equivalent.

(2) The university may decide to let the PhD programme start in connection with a master’s degree programme; however, it must be ensured that the entire degree programme has the scope and level described in sections 1 and 4. The university lays down rules thereon.

(3) Students admitted under subsection 2 must have the opportunity to complete the master’s degree programme.

Section 6. The institution decides who is to be admitted as PhD students. The institution’s rules must stipulate the criteria on which admission is based.

(2) The PhD student is enrolled administratively on the PhD programme.

Part 3 – Contents of the PhD programme etc.

Section 7. The PhD programme is set up in accordance with rules laid down by the institution.

(2) During the programme, the student is required to:

1) Carry out independent research under supervision (the PhD project).

2) Complete PhD courses or other similar programme elements totalling approx. 30 ECTS points.

3) Participate in active research environments, including stays at other, mainly foreign, research institutions, private research companies, etc.

4) Gain experience of teaching activities or other form of knowledge dissemination, which is related to the student’s PhD project. Complete a PhD thesis on the basis of the PhD project.

(3) The institution may approve on a case-by-case basis that the PhD programme does not comprise one or more of the elements described in subsection (2), nos. 1-4, if the university finds that the PhD student has completed other study elements that are comparable to the above (credit transfer).

Section 8. For each PhD student, the institution designates a principal supervisor who is responsible for the overall PhD programme. The principal supervisor must be a recognised researcher within the relevant field, be employed by the institution and affiliated with the PhD school.

(2) On its own initiative or following an application from the PhD student, the institution may:

1) Appoint other supervisors, who must be qualified within the relevant field.

2) Replace the principal supervisor and other supervisors.

Appendix

APPENDIX
The institution offers the PhD student a teaching course.
The institution offers the PhD student teaching guidance.
The institution ensures that the required resources are available for the PhD student to complete the PhD programme as laid down in the student’s PhD plan.
The institution lays down rules for the supervision provided to the PhD student.

Part 4 – Completion of the PhD programme

Section 9. Within three months of the start of the PhD programme, the institution approves a research and study plan (the PhD plan) for the individual PhD student.

1. A schedule.
2. An agreement on the type of supervision provided.
3. A plan for the PhD project.
4. A plan for PhD courses, etc.
5. A plan for participation in active research environments.
6. A plan for teaching activities or other types of knowledge dissemination.
7. Any agreements about intellectual property rights.
8. A financing plan (budget).

Section 10. During the course of the PhD programme, the institution must regularly assess whether the PhD student is following the PhD plan, and, if necessary, adjust the plan. This assessment is based on an opinion from the principal supervisor, who, after having consulted the PhD student, confirms that the PhD programme is progressing in accordance with the PhD plan or justifies, in writing, why adjustments are required. The PhD student must be given the opportunity to submit his or her comments on the principal supervisor’s opinion within a deadline of at least two weeks. In the assessment the institution must take account of periods of documented illness, maternity/paternity leave or other approved leave. The institution lays down rules on the frequency of such assessments.

2. If the institution assesses that the PhD student is not following the PhD plan, in spite of any adjustments made to the plan, the student must be given three months to get back on course. The three months do not give rise to an extension of the PhD programme. The chance to get back on course is connection with a regular assessment pursuant to subsection (1) can only be given to a PhD student once during the PhD programme.

3. The institution must make a new assessment as described in subsection 1 as soon as possible after the end of the three-month period.

4. If the assessment described in subsection 3 is negative, the student is expelled from the PhD programme. The institution must inform any other employer(s) of the expulsion without delay.

Part 5 – PhD thesis

Section 11. The PhD thesis must document the ability of the PhD student or the author to apply the scientific methods of the discipline and to carry out research work that meets the international standards for PhD degrees within the subject area.

Section 12. The institution lays down rules on the writing and submission of the PhD thesis.

1. A PhD thesis cannot be submitted for assessment by two or more authors jointly.

2. The PhD thesis must contain an abstract in Danish and English.

3. Articles included in the thesis may be written in collaboration with others, provided that each of the co-authors submits a written declaration stating the PhD student’s or the author’s contribution to the work, see, however, subsection (5).

4. If the institution may lay down rules limiting the number of written declarations submitted pursuant to subsection.

5. However, the main author of the article must always submit a written declaration pursuant to subsection (4).

Section 13. The PhD student’s enrolment at the institution expires upon submission of the thesis.

Section 14. Within one week of the submission of the thesis, the principal supervisor must submit an opinion on the PhD programme as a whole, including the student’s completion of the individual elements of the PhD plan, see section 9.

2. If the principal supervisor states in the opinion that the PhD degree programme has not been completed satisfactorily, the PhD student must be given at least two weeks to comment on the principal supervisor’s opinion.

3. On the basis of the opinion of the principal supervisor, see subsection (1), the PhD student’s comments, if any, see subsection (2), and the regular assessments, see section 10(1), the institution must determine whether the PhD programme has been completed satisfactorily.

Section 15. The thesis can only be accepted for assessment if PhD programme has been completed satisfactorily, see, however, subsections (2) and (3).

2. In special cases the institution may decide that a thesis may be accepted for assessment without the author...
having completed the PhD programme, if the institution assesses that the author has acquired other comparable qualifications in other ways.

(3) The institution may accept a PhD thesis written by a PhD student from a foreign educational institution for assessment if the PhD student has completed a period of study at the Danish institution as part of a mutually obliging collaboration agreement on PhD programmes, including the assessment, defence, awarding of degrees, etc., and if the institution assesses that the PhD student has acquired qualifications that are comparable with those acquired under a Danish PhD programme.

Part 6 – Assessment committee
Section 16. Upon the submission of the PhD thesis at the latest, the institution appoints an expert assessment committee composed of three members. The institution appoints a chair from among the committee members.

(2) The members of the assessment committee must be recognised researchers within the relevant field. Two of the members must be external researchers, of whom at least one member must be from outside of Denmark, unless this is not relevant for the subject in question. The PhD student’s supervisors must not be members of the assessment committee; however, the principal supervisor assists the assessment committee without voting rights.

Section 17. Upon appointment of the assessment committee, the institution notifies the PhD student or the author of the composition, see section 15 (2). The PhD student or the author is entitled to object to the members appointed within a period of at least one week.

Part 7 – Preliminary assessment of the PhD thesis
Section 18. Within two months of the submission of the PhD thesis, the assessment committee must make its recommendation to the institution as to whether the PhD thesis fulfils the requirements for the award of the PhD degree. The month of July is not included when calculating the two-month deadline. The recommendation must be reasoned, and in the event of disagreement, the majority will prevail. The institution sends a copy of the recommendation to the PhD student or author as soon as possible.

(2) If the thesis is given a favourable recommendation, the public defence can take place.

(3) If the recommendation is not favourable, the assessment committee must state in the recommendation whether the PhD thesis may be resubmitted in a revised version. In such case, a deadline for resubmission must be stated. The PhD student or the author and the principal supervisor must be allowed a period of at least two weeks to submit their comments on the recommendation.

(4) If the recommendation is not favourable, the institution must make one of the following decisions based on the assessment committee’s recommendation and any comments made by the PhD student or the author and the principal supervisor:

1) That the public defence may not take place.
2) That the PhD thesis may be resubmitted in a revised version within a period of at least three months. If the dissertation is resubmitted, it will be assessed by the original assessment committee unless special circumstances apply.

3) That the PhD thesis must be referred to a different assessment committee for assessment.

Part 8 – Defence of the PhD thesis
Section 19. The PhD thesis is defended in public in accordance with the rules laid down by the institution. At the defence, the PhD student or author must be given the opportunity to explain his or her work and defend the PhD thesis before the members of the assessment committee, see, however, subsection (3).

(2) The institution must ensure that the PhD thesis is made available to the public in due time before the defence.

(3) If special circumstances apply, subject to agreement with the PhD student, the institution may decide that a planned defence can be held with only two members of the assessment committee present.

Section 20. The institution decides the time and place of the public defence.

(2) The defence takes place two weeks after the assessment committee’s submission of its recommendation, at the earliest, see section 18(1), and within three months of the submission of the PhD thesis, at the latest, see, however, subsection (3) and section 18(1), second sentence.

(3) If special circumstances apply, the institution may decide to postpone the defence. Postponement of the defence is subject to agreement between the PhD student or author and the institution, including on the date and time arranged for the defence.

Part 9 – Award of the PhD degree
Section 21. Immediately following the defence, the assessment committee must make its recommendation
as to whether the PhD degree should be awarded and
must notify the institution and PhD student or the author
thereof. The recommendation must be reasoned, and in
the event of disagreement, the majority will prevail.
(2) If the recommendation of the assessment committee
is negative, the institution may decide to let the thesis be
assessed by a new assessment committee, if so requested
by the PhD student or the author within a period of at
least one week.

Section 22. The PhD degree can be awarded if the assess-
ment committee submits a recommendation to that effect.

Section 23. The institution issues a certificate of the award
of the PhD degree.
(2) Such certificate must be in Danish and English and
contain information about the relevant field and the
subject of the PhD thesis as well as information on the
PhD programme completed.
(3) As part of a mutually obliging collaboration agree-
ment on PhD training, including the assessment, defence,
awarding of degrees etc., the institution may provide a
certificate with an endorsement, signature or the like
from one or more foreign institutions with which the
institutions collaborates, making it appear as a joint doc-
ument, if the document is also made enforceable under
foreign law (joint degree).
(4) As part of a collaboration agreement, see subsection
(3), the institution may also provide a certificate from one
or more foreign institutions with which the institution
collaborates with an endorsement, signature or the like,
such that the certificate is also made enforceable under
Danish law, if the institution assesses that the PhD student
has acquired qualifications comparable with those acquired
under a Danish PhD programme.
(5) The institution and one or more foreign institutions
with which the institution collaborates may, as part of a
collaboration agreement, see subsection (3), each issue a
certificate of the award of the same PhD degree (double
degree or multiple degree).

Section 24. If the PhD degree is not awarded, the insti-
tution will upon request issue documentation in both
Danish and English concerning the elements of the PhD
programme that have been completed.

Part 10 – The institution’s rules
Section 25. The institution lays down rules on:
1) Admission to the PhD programme, see section 6(1).
2) Organisation of the PhD programme, see section 4(1),
section 7(1) and Section 10(1).
3) Appointment of the principal supervisor, see section
8(1), and any further supervisors, see section 8(2) and
section 27(1), no. 1.
4) Supervision of PhD students, see section 8(6).
5) Writing and submission of the PhD thesis, see section
12(1).
6) Defence of the PhD thesis, see section 19(1).
(2) The university also lays down rules on admission to the
PhD programme pursuant to section 5(2).
(3) The rules must contain a stipulation that the institu-
tion may grant exemptions from the rules laid down by
the institution.
(4) The rules and material amendments thereto must com-
prise the necessary transitional arrangements.
(5) The institution’s rules must be public on the institu-
tion’s website.

Part 11 – Other rules
Section 26. In connection with the conclusion of a mutu-
ally obliging collaboration agreement on PhD training,
including the assessment, defence, awarding of degrees
etc. with one or more foreign educational institutions, the
institution may derogate from the requirements set out in
the ministerial order concerning:
1) The composition of the assessment committee, see
section 16(1), first sentence, and section 16(2), second
sentence.
2) The deadline for preliminary assessment of the PhD
thesis, see section 18(1), first and second sentence.
3) The deadline for scheduling the defence of the PhD
(2) In such cases, the institution is responsible for inform-
ing applicants and PhD students who are covered by the
collaboration agreement about the conditions applying to
the programme, including the rules in the ministerial or-
der derogated from, see subsection (1). This information
must be available before the application deadline.

Section 27. The following applies to PhD fellowships
financed through the Industrial PhD scheme:
1) In addition to the principal supervisor, see section 8(1),
the institution appoints a supervisor affiliated with the
company in which the PhD student is employed. Such
supervisor must be qualified within the relevant field.
2) At least one of the members of the assessment
committee, see section 16(1) must have company-
relevant research experience within the relevant field.
Section 28. The Danish Agency for Universities and Internationalisation may grant exemptions from the ministerial order for PhD students at universities if unusual circumstances apply, except in the situations mentioned in section 19(3), section 20(3) and section 26(1).

(2) The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Educational Support may grant exemptions from the ministerial order for PhD students at higher artistic educational institutions if unusual circumstances apply, except in the situations mentioned in section 19(3), section 20(3) and section 26(1).

Appeals against decisions made by the institution
Section 29. The university’s decisions made under the present ministerial order may be appealed to the Danish Agency for Universities and Internationalisation by the party which the decision concerns (the complainant) if the appeal concerns legal issues. Appeals must be submitted within two weeks of the complainant having been informed of a decision.

(2) The higher artistic educational institution’s decisions made under the present ministerial order may be appealed to the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Educational Support by the party which the decision concerns (the complainant) if the appeal concerns legal issues. Appeals must be submitted within two weeks of the complainant having been informed of a decision.

(3) The PhD students and authors described in the present ministerial order are entitled to make complaints. However, in order to be entitled to appeal, authors who have not completed a PhD programme must have had their PhD thesis accepted for assessment pursuant to section 15(2).

(4) The appeal must be submitted to the institution that has made the decision in a case. The institution will issue a statement giving the complainant at least one week to respond. The institution then sends the appeal to the relevant agency, see subsections (1) and (2), accompanied by the statement and any comments from the complainant.

Part 12 – Commencement and transitional regulations
Section 30. This ministerial order enters into force on 1 September 2013.

(2) Ministerial Order no. 18 of 14 January 2008 (the PhD Order) is repealed.

(3) The institution may lay down the necessary transitional arrangements for students to complete the programme in accordance with the rules set out in this ministerial order.


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