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Knowledge **FOR** Resilient soCiEty

PhD Study Regulation
Aalborg University

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Purpose and Structure

- The PhD programme is a research programme aiming to train PhD students at an international level to undertake research, development and teaching assignments in the private and public sectors, for which a broad knowledge of research is required.
- The PhD programme mainly comprises active research training under supervision
- The institutions may award the PhD degree within fields within which they carry out research and within which they have set up a PhD school
- Persons who have been awarded a PhD degree have the right to use the title PhD.
- 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. 60 ECTS points correspond to one year of full-time studies.



Admission to the PhD programme

- Admission to the PhD programme is based on a Master's degree or equivalent.
- The university may decide to let the PhD programme start in connection with a Master's programme;
- The institution decides who is to be admitted as PhD students. The institution's rules must stipulate the criteria on which admission is based.
- The PhD student is enrolled administratively on the PhD programme/PhD school.



Contents of the PhD programme

The student is required to:

- Carry out independent research work under supervision (the PhD project).
- Complete PhD courses or similar study elements totalling approx. 30 ECTS points.
- Participate in active research environments, including stays at other, mainly foreign, research institutions, private research enterprises etc.
- 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.



Contents of the PhD programme

- The institution designates a principal supervisor who is responsible for the
 - Overall PhD programme. The principal supervisor must be a recognized researcher within the relevant field, be employed by the institution and affiliated with the PhD school.
- The institution may:
 - Appoint other supervisors, who must be qualified within the relevant field.
 - Replace the principal supervisor and other supervisors.
- The institution offers the PhD student a teaching course.
- 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.



Completion of the PhD programme

- 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.
- The PhD plan must, as a minimum, contain the following:
 - 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 on intellectual property rights.³
 - 8) A financing plan (budget).



Completion of the PhD programme

- At regular points in time during the PhD programme, the institution must 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.



PhD thesis

- 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.
- The institution/PhD school lays down rules on the writing and submission of the PhD thesis.
- A PhD thesis cannot be submitted for assessment by two or more authors jointly.
- The PhD thesis must contain an abstract in Danish and English.
- The PhD student's enrolment at the institution expires upon the submission of the thesis.



Assessment Committee

- Upon the submission at the latest, the institution appoints an expert assessment committee composed of three members.
 - The institution appoints a chairman
 - The members of the assessment committee must be recognized researchers within the relevant field.
- Two of the members must be external researchers
- The PhD student's supervisors must not be members of the assessment committee; however, the principal supervisor assists the assessment committee without voting rights.
- Immediately after having appointed the members of the assessment committee, the institution must inform the PhD student or the author thereof. The PhD student or the author is entitled to object to the members appointed within a period of at least one week.



Assessment Committee

-) 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 the author as soon as possible.
- (2) If the recommendation is favourable, the defence of the thesis 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 given the opportunity to





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Thank you
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