

WELCOME TO

THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The aim of the Doctoral School of Social Sciences is to provide a national and local framework for a PhD education characterised by quality and high international standard. The Doctoral School is continuously developing and improving the PhD education through seven doctoral programmes within the research areas at The Faculty of Social Sciences:

- Sociology and Social Work
- Political Science
- Business Economics
- Innovation Economics
- Culture and Global Studies
- Law and Business Law
- Education, Learning and Philosophy

This brochure introduces the content of the PhD study, the seven doctoral programmes, and other information relevant for you as a current or future PhD student at the Doctoral School of Social Sciences.

The Doctoral School was established in 2008 after the amendment of The Danish University Act in 2007, which introduced doctoral programmes and PhD study boards as statutory institutions at Danish universities with formal responsibility for PhD education.

THE PHD STUDY

A doctoral programme in Denmark consists of three years' full-time study, corresponding to 180 ECTS credits. According to the Danish Ministerial Order on the PhD programme, a PhD student is required to:

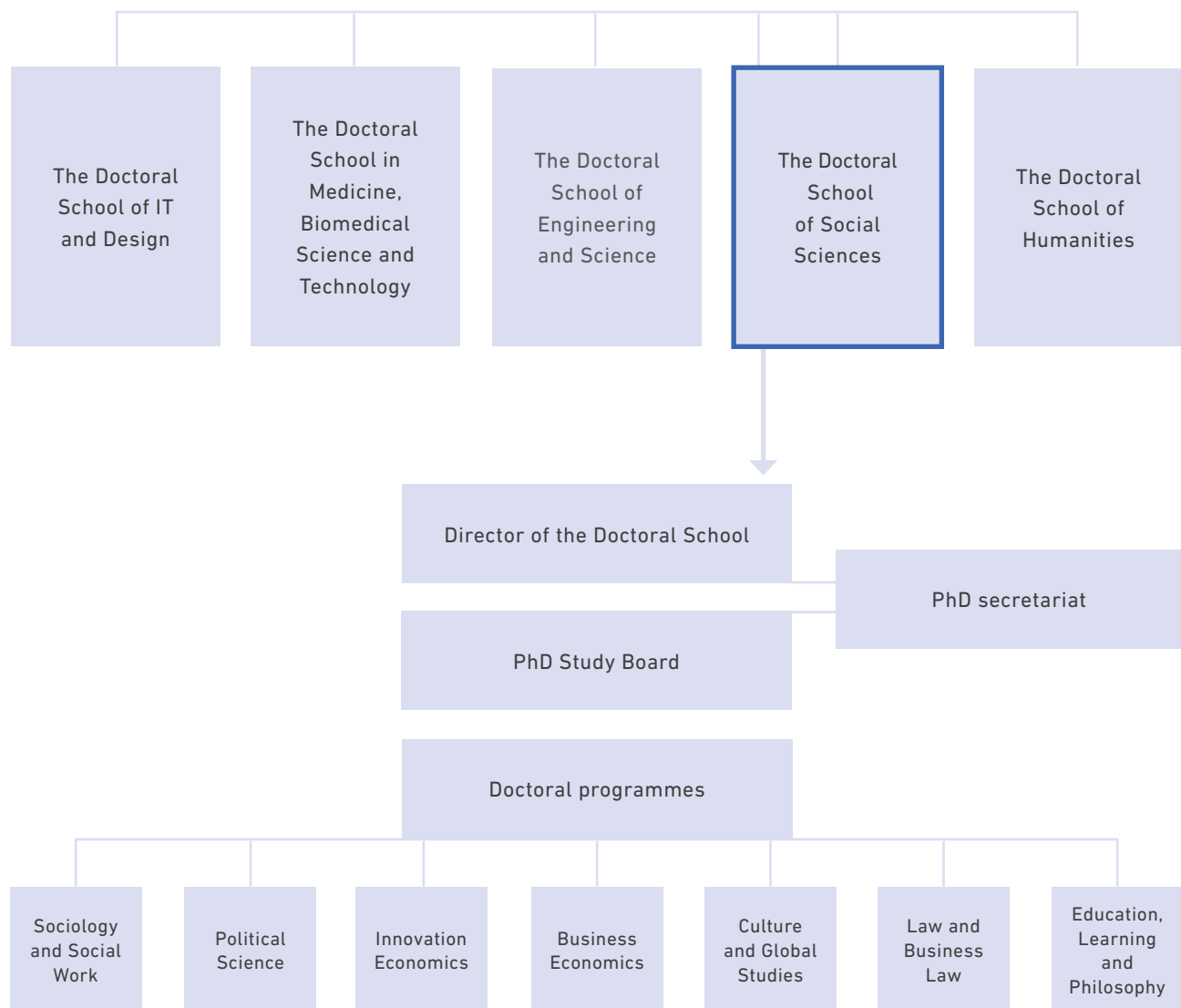
- Conduct independent research work under supervision (the PhD project)
- Complete PhD courses or similar study elements totalling approx. 30 ECTS credits
- Participate in active research environments, including stays at other, mainly foreign, research institutions, private research enterprises etc.
- Gain experience with teaching activities or other forms of knowledge dissemination related to the PhD project
- Complete a PhD thesis on the basis of the PhD project.

For further information about the Doctoral School please see www.en.fak.samf.aau.dk/phd/

In compliance with national regulations, the timeline of the PhD process at the Doctoral School consists of the following steps from enrolment to award of degree:



ORGANISATION OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



The Doctoral School offers seven doctoral programmes, which reflect the diversity within the Faculty of Social Sciences in terms of academic scope, profile and number of enrolled PhD students. Some programmes are interdisciplinary, some are organised across faculties, and others are rooted in mainstream social science disciplines.

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

The doctoral programme in Sociology and Social Work is closely linked to the core research fields at the Department of Sociology and Social Work, namely sociology, social work, work life and organisation.

The key topics are social relations and social diversity with special emphasis on coherence, social problems, affiliation, identity and organisation in complex, post-modern societies. Analyses focus on individuals, groups, social institutions and organisations and emphasise variation in class, gender, ethnicity, age and disability.

PhD project presentations and more process-oriented activities like writing courses take place on a regular basis. PhD students at the Department of Sociology and Social Work have formed academic networks, GISP and AHA, at Aalborg University campus Aalborg and campus Copenhagen.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

The overall theme of the doctoral programme in Political Science at the Department of Political Science is changes in economic, political and governance systems in the public sector and in state-market-civil society relations. PhD students are introduced to classic and modern theories, analytical approaches and terms including applied analytical methods and techniques.

PhD students are affiliated with research units where they present their research design and their results. The head of programme meets the PhD students at the department once or twice a year to exchange information and explore needs for PhD activities. The programme organises a mentor arrangement for new PhD students.

INNOVATION ECONOMICS

The doctoral programme in Innovation Economics at the Department of Business and Management focuses on the key elements of economic development, knowledge, innovation, entrepreneurship, macroeconomics, health economics, and creativity.

The programme takes part in the inter-university research network DRUID (Danish Research Unit in Industrial Dyna-

mics) where researchers at the Department of Business and Management, e.g. from the research groups IKE (Innovation, Knowledge and Economic Dynamics) and EOB (Entrepreneurship and Organisational Behaviour), work in close collaboration with researchers from Copenhagen Business School and University of Southern Denmark.

BUSINESS ECONOMICS

The focus areas of the Business Economics doctoral programme are international managerial economy, organisation, strategy, auditing and management accounting. The programme is organised at the Department of Business and Management and is associated with the following research groups: MAC (Management Accounting and Control), IBE (International Business Education) and FIRM (Firms, Innovation, Relationship & Management).

CULTURE AND GLOBAL STUDIES

The doctoral programme in Culture and Global Studies is an interdisciplinary research training programme for PhD students who conduct research within the frame of culture and globalisation, in a contemporary as well as historical perspective. The programme includes humanities and social science approaches to the research area, covering cultural, political and socio-economic elements in processes at local, national, transnational and global level. PhD projects in the CGS programme study topics which are essential for the understanding of historical and contemporary processes in which their origin, contexts, conflicts and consequences are investigated. Research themes range from transnational phenomena and international affairs, intercultural and intraregional issues to changeable identities and everyday life experience.

The programme is organised at the Department of Culture and Global Studies and connected to both the Doctoral School of Humanities and the Doctoral School of Social Sciences.

LAW AND BUSINESS LAW

The doctoral programme in Law and Business Law embraces legal research in a broad sense. The programme covers civil and public, national and international law. The programme aims to create a research environment within law at an international level and to contribute to the future research environment at the Department of Law and the legal expertise of the surrounding society. The programme therefore prioritises close cooperation with the private business community and public authorities.

The programme is partner in the nationwide Jurforsk network and offers PhD courses in cooperation with this network and with universities in Uppsala, Sweden and Bergen, Norway. The programme also participates in a law of torts and a criminal law network. Both networks include Scandinavian researchers and give PhD students opportunities to present their research.

Every PhD student enrolled in one of the Doctoral School's 7 doctoral programmes is affiliated with at least one research group. Some 50 research groups are currently affiliated with the doctoral programmes.

The Faculty of Social Sciences at Aalborg University is the social science faculty in Denmark with the second highest number of PhD students compared to other academic staff.

EDUCATION, LEARNING AND PHILOSOPHY

Education, Learning and Philosophy is an interdisciplinary programme with focus on education, learning and teaching within the following themes: development of organisations, including management; evaluation and handling of knowledge; educational sociology, didactics, workplace learning and university pedagogy; innovative competencies; philosophy and theories of science.

Research activities are organised in cross-disciplinary research groups and comprise five major fields of interest: pedagogy and didactics; organisational learning and workplace learning; educational research; applied philosophy; and science and technology studies.

The programme is organised at the Department of Learning and Philosophy and connected to both the Doctoral School of Humanities and the Doctoral School of Social Sciences.

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The Doctoral School of Social Sciences has a strong focus on internationalisation. The number of international students has increased in recent years, and today more than 20 percent of the PhD students are from abroad. Furthermore, the international cooperation on doctoral programmes has developed through networks and doctoral education partnerships with universities in Europe and other parts of the world. The Doctoral School has entered framework agreements regarding joint and double PhD degrees with institutions such as:

- University of Málaga, Spain
- Quilmes National University, Argentina
- University of Ghent, Belgium
- University of the Faroe Islands
- Adama Science and Technology University, Ethiopia
- University of Chinese Academy of Sciences

The Doctoral School also participates in the Sino-Danish Center for Education and Research (SDC), where PhD students funded by the Danish SDC secretariat get co-supervision and 6-12 months' experience from Chinese research environment depending on the funding model.

The Doctoral School strives for a high degree of PhD student mobility across borders. Going abroad to participate in active research environments at foreign research institutions or private enterprises is considered an important element in the students' personal and academic development.

PHD COURSES

PhD courses or similar activities corresponding to 30 ECTS points (6 months' full-time studies) are mandatory. PhD students are expected to attend both general and thematic courses within specific disciplines and subjects. The exact distribution of the courses must be related to the content of the PhD project and individual qualifications.

The Doctoral School organises some 25 PhD courses every year, which include a broad range of general and thematic PhD courses. Most of the courses are offered in English, many with participation of internationally recognised researchers. The following are examples of general and thematic courses:

General courses:

- Mixed Methods Research: Theory and Practice
- PhD Summer School – Creative and Combined Methods in Qualitative Research

- PhD Summer School – Empirical Research Designs and Quantitative Methods
- Writing a Journal Article

Thematic courses:

- The Process of Theorizing and Theory Building in Management Research
- Embedded Conceptualisations of Learning within (Shared) Innovation Processes and their Implications for Research Methodology
- Modernization, gender and generation – reconfigurations of everyday life. Cases from China and the Nordic countries

The content of the PhD course programme is based on proposals from research groups, PhD students and the local PhD programmes. The overall PhD course programme is

decided in the PhD board. To ensure quality and continuing development in the course portfolio, all participating PhD students conclude their courses by filling out an evaluation form, which will be discussed in the PhD board.

The courses are advertised on the home page of the organising programme, on the Doctoral School's website, and in the national database for PhD courses.

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN RESEARCH GROUPS/RESEARCH PROJECTS

Active involvement in research groups is fundamental for your doctoral education. All PhD students are affiliated with a research group and its work environment, scientific meetings, presentations and discussions for academic seniors and juniors, including PhD students. PhD students are

primarily affiliated with their main supervisor's research group, but may participate in activities organised by other groups. Each research group is responsible for giving you opportunities to present your research projects or research papers for discussion several times during enrolment.

Enrolments per year, approximately 25-30. Degrees per year, approx. 25-30.

The PhD population at the Doctoral School lies somewhat constant at approx. 110 students. More than 20 % of the population have foreign citizenship.

SUPERVISION

Your principal PhD supervisor, a senior researcher within the field of the PhD project, will be appointed by the director of the Doctoral School based on a recommendation from the department/doctoral programme. Secondary supervisors may be appointed, preferably no later than the 12 month assessment.

The form of supervision is decided between you and your supervisor and included in the PhD plan (to be confirmed by the director of the Doctoral School). As a minimum, you can expect your principal supervisor:

- to introduce you to the department, the doctoral programme, research groups and networks (together with the head of doctoral programme)
- to inform you about the PhD plan and the four-step evaluation model
- to be responsible for supervision and for evaluating your progress. It is expected that supervisor meetings are held at least once a month (except during vacation periods)
- to advise you about teaching and dissemination of knowledge throughout the PhD study
- to advise you about PhD courses, seminars and conferences within your research field

See the guidelines for principal supervisors and other relevant guidelines on the website: www.en.fak.samf.aau.dk/phd/

MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

The head of a doctoral programme has the organisational responsibility for the PhD education at the associated department. The head of department has overall responsibility, including staff responsibility for the department in which the doctoral programme is embedded. The head of programme and head of department are therefore responsible for the integration of PhD students and the working environment in the programme and the department.

In the unlikely event that you as a PhD student experience problems with your supervisor, your research group, your work load or anything else related to your wellbeing at the department, you can always have a confidential talk with your head of programme or your head of department. In terms of formal and practical matters, the programme secretary is here for your guidance and assistance.

The list of "Head of Programme Responsibilities" is available at: www.en.fak.samf.aau.dk/phd/

See also the last section in this brochure: "Where to get information, support and guidance".

The Doctoral School cooperates with a wide range of public and private external partners, including foreign organisations.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION, SUPPORT, AND GUIDANCE

THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Doctoral School of Social Sciences is the organisational framework for doctoral education at the Faculty of Social Sciences. The Doctoral School works closely with the PhD Study Board to develop and ensure quality in the faculty's PhD education.

The Doctoral School's secretariat handles administrative processes, e.g. enrolment procedures, appointment of supervisor, submission of study plan etc. (see the timeline in the first section of this brochure). The secretariat can be contacted through samf-phd@adm.aau.dk, and more information about the Doctoral School is available at www.en.fak.samf.aau.dk/phd/

THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

As a PhD student you are enrolled in one of the seven doctoral programmes. Each programme is managed by a head of programme and supported by a programme secretary. The head of programme and programme secretary are your primary contact persons regarding practical and personal matters.

Each programme consists of a number of research groups, one of which will provide your closest working environment during the programme. Read more about the doctoral programmes and affiliated research groups at the Doctoral School website.

INTERNATIONAL ACCOMMODATION OFFICE

The International Accommodation Office (IAO) at Aalborg University helps international guest lecturers and PhD students (staff) with practical matters such as signing a tenancy agreement, allocation, rent, deposit, furniture, conditions for repayment of deposit, etc.

The IAO is part of the International Office, which is a more general office primarily directed towards Master's students. Read more here: www.en.aau.dk/education/international-accommodation-office/

THE HR DEPARTMENT (HUMAN RESOURCES)

The HR Department at Aalborg University is an administrative body for the entire university, which handles personnel administration service for the main areas and other parts of the university with regard to work environment, personnel policy, management and organisational development. The International Staff Office can help you with administrative issues related to your employment: www.iso.aau.dk

RELEVANT REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

As a PhD student in Denmark you are subject to a set of regulations and requirements. Please consult the Doctoral School website regarding:

- The Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme
- Internal rules and regulations of the Doctoral School of Social Sciences
- Information about the PhD plan and progress reports
- Guidelines for writing a thesis
- List of relevant knowledge dissemination tasks
- Guidelines for stays abroad
- Guidelines regarding ECTS valued activities
- Information about Head of Programme responsibilities
- Instructions for VBN publication when submitting your thesis



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