

**Minutes PhD committee meeting**  
**– Monday, 12 May 2025 from 14.15 to 16.00 –**  
**Meeting room: 1520-737**

**1. Meeting information**

Participants:

Ditlev Egeskov Brodersen, Duncan Sutherland, Hans-Jörg Schulz, Brian Julsgaard, Jeppe Bayer Pedersen, Nathalie Puggaard Elkær A. Ibsen, Lasse Messell Desdorf, Ama Bembua Bainson, Mads Ramsgaard Stoltenberg, Cyril Matousek, Blanca Gil Rosell, Marie Vogel Kolte, Camilla Gottlieb Andersen, Malthe Kjær Bendtsen, Bo Volf Brøchner, Jacob Christian Warming, Marius Juul Nielsen and Ole Bækgaard Nielsen

Apologies for absence:

Marius Vendelbo Bjørnbak Brix

The secretariat:

Karen Konradi and Rikke J. Ljungmann

**2. Approval of agenda (Ditlev Egeskov Brodersen)**

The agenda was approved.

**3. Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions, etc. for the period 13 January 2025 to 1 May 2025 (Ole Bækgaard Nielsen)**

At each committee meeting an overview is presented of the following:

- Defences – assessment committees
- Exemptions
- Credit transfer granted in connection with admission

Ole Bækgaard Nielsen gave a short briefing mentioning that there have been 24 defences since the last PhD committee meeting with no external members from the USA, and only 1 from Australia and 1 from South Africa.

**4. The transferable skills PhD course portfolio GSNS and GSTS for 2026 (Ditlev Egeskov Brodersen)**

The Course Committee discussed the proposal at their April meeting and decided to recommend that the two PhD committees at GSNS and GSTS, respectively, approve the suggested transferable skills PhD course portfolio for 2026.

The PhD committee approved the course portfolio for 2026.

#### **5. New course: Artificial Intelligence for Scientific Writing (Ditlev Egeskov Brodersen)**

The PhD committee approved the course and the course description.

#### **6. Further news from the course committee (Ditlev Egeskov Brodersen)**

At the course committee meeting, other matters also came up for discussion. Of these the following were recommended to be discussed and approved by the two PhD committees:

- To approach Rodrigo Laboriau, who runs the Introduction to R course, and ask if the number of seats could be expanded for this course.
- To ask the course lecturers in general to consider if a discussion of AI in terms of their course might be useful to include in the course/course description.
- To ask those course lecturers, whose courses run more than once per year, if they would be able to offer one of the courses online. This could make it easier e.g. for people at other AU locations than Aarhus or abroad on a research environment stay to take a course.

All suggestions were approved, and the secretariat will contact the course lecturers on the matter.

#### **7. News from the PhD students (PhD student members)**

There was a comment and subsequent discussion on working hours and the employment contract stating that the average number of working hours will be 37 hours per week, and how this fit with life in academia.

#### **8. Workplace Assessment (in Danish: APV) (Ole Bækgaard Nielsen)**

The item was postponed till the next PhD committee meeting as the English version of the Workplace Assessment was not yet available.

#### **9. Research environment change (Ole Bækgaard Nielsen)**

At the January meeting, it was decided to have a discussion here at the May meeting with regard to the rules for research environment change – taking a starting point in what relates to the PhD Order, and how this is interpreted in the GSNS regulations.

Thus, interpreting the PhD Order, the GSNS Rules and Regulations are conflicting with the PhD Order on one point, namely that we can only grant exemption from the length of the stay. We cannot grant exemption from not going at all.

At the meeting Ole Bækgaard Nielsen suggested the following adjustments to the GSNS rules:

- No longer an option to get total exemption from going on a research environment change
- If the PhD student go on a research environment change for a period of 3-6 months then the GSNS requirement is fulfilled. If a PhD student is only able to go for less than 3 months, an application for exemption for the 3 months will be necessary. The request for an exemption from the 3 months requirement must include suggestions for an alternative plan.

A discussion ensued. Among other things, it was debated what a stay of less than 3 months could consist of. The importance of supervisors supporting that the PhD students go on a research environment change was also mentioned.

**Action:** Ole Bækgaard Nielsen will take it to the Faculty management and the Heads of programme committee.

## **10. GSNS seminar (Ole Bækgaard Nielsen)**

At the PhD committee in January, it was decided to continue working with themes from the seminar in the upcoming committee meetings.

As preparation for the present meeting, each programme had sent a list of initiatives for their specific programme to use as a starting point.

A discussion took place about the various initiatives and how the programmes work with them. The importance of making sure the initiatives are actually implemented/enforced was also underlined.

Based on the discussions, it was decided as a first step to continue working with the list of initiatives at the next PhD committee meeting and come up with a set of recommendations for all programmes.

The secretariat will make an overview document based on the compiled list of initiatives from each programme for the next meeting.

## **11. Any other business (Ditlev Egeskov Brodersen)**

None