

Graduate School of Natural Sciences (GSNS)

PhD committee meeting

Time: Wednesday, 11 May 2022 at 13.30-15.30

Place: Ny Munkegade 120, bldg. 1520, room 732

Minutes

1. Meeting information

Participants:

Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer, Henrik Stapelfeldt, Anders Møller, Henriette Rübsam, Mads Blichfeldt Amdisen, Ragnhild Ørbæk Laursen and David Lundbek Egholm.

Apologies for absence:

Joanna Martin Davies, Clémence Rose and Erik Asbjørn Mikkelsen Jensen

The secretariat:

Maria Fauerby Iversen and Rikke J. Ljungmann. During item 4, Mie Meulengracht Christensen.

2. Approval of minutes from the PhD committee meeting on 11 March 2022

Approved

3. Approval of agenda

Approved

4. Follow-up from last meeting's discussion of the onboarding programme

David Lundbek Egholm gave a status on the onboarding programme. The presented workshop descriptions were discussed along with the suggestion for an adjusted Introduction day. At the next committee meeting, final descriptions will be presented for approval.

It was decided that the official start of the onboarding programme will be 1 January 2023 with the adjusted Introduction day and the workshops starting up in spring 2023.

At the next meeting, more info on the peer group concept will be available for discussion. It was mentioned that the framing and structuring of the groups is very important as is providing the purpose of participating in these groups and their reasons for meeting.

As agreed at the last meeting, the work-life balance workshop was discussed. It was suggested to include info /tips on how to reduce and avoid stress, and on well-being. This workshop will likely run already this coming autumn.

It was also suggested that the workshop on international mobility could include info on applying for grants.

5. Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions, etc. for the period 14 January 2022 to 2 May 2022

An overview of the following was presented:

- Defences – assessment committees
- Qualifying exams
- Requests (incl. credit transfer granted during the PhD study)
- Credit transfer granted in connection with admissions process
- Covid-19 extensions applied for and approved during the period

As decided at the PhD committee meeting in January, David Lundbek Egholm explained the approval procedures and provided an overview of the thesis re-submission procedure.

6. News from the PhD students

In relation to the Well-being committee, Henriette RübSam mentioned that it had been discussed whether a substitute could be found for each of the PhD student members. This is to ensure continuity if one of the members are absent.

Action: Henriette RübSam will e-mail the other GSNS PhD student committee members to ask if anyone would become substitute.

Henriette RübSam also mentioned that at the moment there is work going on to create an e-mail to be sent out to alle PhD students with information on who to go to in various matters.

7. Follow-up on action plan

David Lundbek Egholm gave a status on the action plan and follow-up with regard to the seminar. He told the committee that the action plan had now been discussed in the Faculty management who supported it.

As for the individual actions:

- The onboarding programme is well under way in terms of preparation and organisation (see also item 4 above).

- A draft had been prepared with regard to adjusted text on committee roles, etc. for the GSNS website. It was discussed and approved with one minor adjustment.
- The consultation and action plan website has been updated to mirror that we have now entered into the implementation phase.
- The matter of remuneration to PhD students for participation in committee work will be discussed in the Faculty management before long.
- The process of looking into the work obligation/teaching situation has started.

As for the seminar:

- Date, place and facilitator has been found
- PhD committee members, Heads of programme, PhD students and VIPs from the local programme committees as well as PhD partners will participate.

Action: In connection with the action plan, it was discussed whether PhD student members of the local programme committee could/should participate in the evaluation of applications to the Graduate School. David Lundbek Egholm will check whether there are any legal impediments in this connection before it is discussed further.

Action: Rikke J. Ljungmann will e-mail the PhD student committee members to ask if anyone of them might be interested in contributing to the GSNS website on the PhD committee with a short text on their view of the committee work.

8. University elections – areas of representation to be adjusted?

To follow up on the action plan and the notion of getting a broader representation in the PhD committee, especially from the PhD students, it was discussed if the areas of representation should be adjusted, and if so, how the areas of representation could be structured.

Action: The secretariat looks further into the options, and an e-mail hearing will follow shortly.

9. PhD courses – individual course descriptions

9a. Course description: ‘Applied Statistics’

It was approved to discuss the course description as soon as it will be available, if necessary through a written e-mail hearing.

9b. Precise course titles coming up later – two courses on innovation, entrepreneurship and start-up

It was approved to discuss the course descriptions as soon as they will be available, if necessary through a written e-mail hearing.

9c. Science Writing and Communication

The course was approved.

10. Discussion of the transferable skills PhD course portfolio 2023

The transferable skills PhD course portfolio 2023 was approved.

11. Follow-up on Science Teaching evaluation

The course committee's observations on improvements of the course and the wish to continue to follow it closely were duly noted.

12. Work Place Assessment (in Danish: APV)

David Lundbek Egholm gave a status on the Work Place Assessment with regard to the PhD students at Natural Science. It was mentioned that the APV only covers employed PhD students whereas the Quality in the PhD Process (KIP) carried out in 2021 covers all PhD students.

However, the figures in both surveys point to the same tendencies, namely that the work environment and inclusion in the scientific environments are overall good, but that the figures on work-life balance, stress and loneliness are less positive, also when compared to other VIPs.

13. Screening grants and mobility grants 2017-2022 divided into programmes

This item was a follow-up from the December 2021 meeting. The figures were discussed.

Next meeting: It was decided to discuss the purpose of the screening grants and whether they work properly as a recruitment tool.

14. For your information

It was mentioned that the course committee had had a discussion at their meeting on whether to offer some of our courses in an online format. Many viewpoints were presented. It was agreed that physical courses were very important, but to be open to various ways of teaching – be they physical, virtual or any hybrid format – in terms of what works best for the individual course.

15. Any other business

None