

REFERAT PhD Committee for the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Business d. 29-11-2024

Mødedato Fredag d. 29. november 2024 kl. 13:00

Mødested 25.1-003

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Punkt 1: Approval of agenda (13.00 - 13.05) (Minutes approved by mail)

Approval of agenda

Cancellations: Wladimir Santana Fernandes, Johan Fischer (maybe Jeppe Bay Lynggaard as he is on paternity leave)

Online: Ada Scupola

Beslutning

Updates from the Doctoral School:

- Update on the PhD Day.
- Discussions about the new graduate reform (kandidatreform).
- Topics included MUS (employee development) discussions, career-focused MUS sessions led by the head of section, conflict management, and changes for VIPs.
- Other topics: the distinction between students and fellows, and a new co-author statement to be reviewed after New Year.

Punkt 2: Update from the Head of the Doctoral School - and news from RDS (13.05 - 13.15)

Update from the Head of The Doctoral School and news from RDS

40 active PhD enrolled

1 Double degree finishing his project here at ISE from November and onwards

1 Double degree finishing her dissertation with a defense in China

- 1 new PhD starts in December
- Hopefully 4 new PhDs in February 2025 on scholarships and embedded in project
- Negotiations about 1 new PhD to start in February 2025 on a co-financed project

- Number of dispensations applications since last meeting:
 - 8 applicartions
 - Regarding articlebased requirements: 4
 - Regarding ECTS: 3
 - Regarding merit: 1

- Other types of applications
 - 3 applications
 - Regarding supervision: 2
 - Regarding budget: 1
 - Regarding teaching: 1

- At next coming meeting with a full body executive committee we will discuss the half yearly evaluation - shape and frequency.
- At next coming meeting with a full body executive committee we will decide composition of sub committee.
- Incoming: All researchers must report data to Rigsarkivet, from Ph.D-level and up. Proces will be further presented in 2025.

Beslutning

- The newly established PhD Committee will form a subcommittee to handle dispensation cases after New Year. The selection process for the new committee was smooth and without elections.
- Ida provided data about the PhD school, such as dispensations and active students.
- The type of dispensations cases since last meeting was run through as an overview.
- The process for applying for a dispensation was explained, but it was also requested that the process and possibility of applying needed more transparency. It was suggested that the process is written on intra.
- It was also noted, that the executive committee related to the final defense is informed about the possible dispensation in article cases.

Punkt 3: Orientation: New PhD in FoU (13.15-13.25)

Ida Frost Kyvsgaard (former PhD at ISE) was a member of FoU and we now need to find a new PhD member from ISE. FoU / Forskningsudvalget) Research Committee.

Message from Fou:

The former PhD member from ISE is no longer a member of the Research Committee (FoU) (see attached terms of reference).

On behalf of the prorektor, I would like to request that ISE's PhD committee appoint a new PhD member to FoU at the constituting meeting in February. If possible, the new PhD member is welcome to attend the FoU meeting on February 12, 2025.

An important criterion is that the PhD member should be interested in contributing the PhD perspective on research strategic issues relevant to all of RUC, and that the individual will allocate time for up to five annual meetings in FoU. Please check how many hours you allocate for the role of PhD member of FoU, as this varies across departments.

The terms of reference for FoU state that there should be two regular PhD members and two alternates from across the departments. However, the arrangement has been that members and alternates are not appointed. Instead, the PhD members coordinate internally before each FoU meeting to decide which two individuals will attend the upcoming meeting, considering agenda items and availability due to environmental changes, etc.

The kommissorium is in Danish but I've made a rough translation. Both are in the appendix

Beslutning

It was asked whether or not the PhD fellows across departments should coordinate the rotation between meetings? Ida Bull will provide feedback on this.

Bilag

Kommissorium_for_Forskningsudvalget__FoU__RUC (1).pdf

Terms of Reference for RUC.docx

Punkt 4: Decision: Revised PhD Plan template (13.25-13.30)

Added new bullet under 1. Introduction.

Some PhD Projects are embedded in a bigger research. The role of the PhD in the wider project should be clarified.

The addition to the PhD Plan derives from the need to specify where the PhD Projects relates to the big project and what specific deliverables the PhD projects is trying to answer.

We're trying to make sure, that the future PhD Projects aren't fully locked or limited by the outline of the bigger project.

Beslutning

- Discussion about the PhD plan template. The committee considered whether it should include specific elements directly or provide an addendum. The flexibility to choose based on individual needs was approved.
- it was suggested to include a section titled “Individual contribution,” specifying what the individual contributes to the project.

Bilag

PhD_Plan_template_02.docx

Punkt 5: Break - if needed (13.30-13.40)

Punkt 6: Discussion: ECTS and mandatory courses (13.45-13.55)

Please check the last evaluation presented underneath under section 6.

Discussion point from the PhDs; PhDs will summarize

We would like to discuss whether it should be a requirement for PhD students to take both quant and qual courses.

Regarding the quant course, several people say that:

- "It's a waste of time - few don't use methods at all.
- People sit in the back because they have to take the course - the teachers know that
- PhD students are under time pressure, so the course is not prioritised
- There is no feedback on the written reflection paper. So you don't know if you've understood the methods correctly or not.
- You can't learn the methods in a 2 ECTS course - what's the purpose of the course?

At the same time, we are in a large department that works in many different directions and with very different prerequisites, which is difficult to accommodate in the organisation of such a course.

The discussion about quant/qual courses plays into a larger discussion about what should be mandatory courses. Compulsory courses include:

- Research Design (5 ECTS)
- Ethics (1 ECTS)
- Data management (½ ECTS)
- Screening and plagiarism (½ ECTS)

A total of 7 ECTS, which corresponds to what you are required to take at RUC. In addition, there are the quant/qual courses (minimum 2 ECTS each), and we are encouraged to participate in WIP seminars and present at conferences. So, it's approaching 15 ECTS, which is predetermined in advance what the PhD students should spend their time on.

There is little room to design and plan your own PhD process. For whose sake are these courses? Is it an institutional requirement? A deliberate schooling of PhD students?

Beslutning

The discussion perspectives from the PhD Fellows were as follows:

- Highlighted the importance of flexibility in mandatory PhD requirements.
- Criticized the pedagogical hours, suggesting they are less useful compared to practical teaching strategies like "Teaching – Tips and Tricks" or WIP sessions. Suggesting a yearly "WIP-Teaching". Proposed an initial session clarifying PhD teaching rights and responsibilities
- Suggested improving quantitative/qualitative courses to better engage students
- Questioned the lack of qualitative courses for quantitative (when we have quantitative for qualitative).
- Engaging with quantitative or qualitative and MA-level is a good idea.

The discussion perspectives from the VIP members were as follows:

- Emphasized the need for students to master quantitative and qualitative methods but supported exemptions for experienced candidates.
- Makes sense to have quantitative. Suggested that MA-level courses could suffice for some students.

Punkt 7: Discussion: Evaluation of courses (13.55-14.00)

Cancelled courses in fall 2025:

Social Network Analysis: Theory, Method, and Application

Introduction to Research Design

PDS: Weird and wonderful work in progress

Evaluations of following courses in appendix

Introduction to Quantitative methods

Writing a Kappe/Frame

PDS: How to publish your PhD thesis as a book

Future courses in fall 2025

Analysing the power of ideas and knowledge - held in late November

Challenges to Academic Freedom - held in January

Beslutning

PDS: How to Publish your PhD Thesis as a Book:

- Suggestions to clarify content and reduce frequency to every other semester.

Quantitative:

- A typo in question 8 – "Qual" should be "Quant", was pointed out

Kappe/Frame:

- Positive. Some in the evaluation suggest that it could possibly be made into a one-day course. Technical challenge that evaluations did not arrive by lunch on the last day.

Bilag

Evaluation PDS How to publish your PhD as a book.pdf

Evaluation Quantitative research method.pdf

Evaluation Writing a Frame/Kappe.pdf

Punkt 8: Future activities for PhD fellows (14.00-14.10)

Any future activities?

Feedback from the Writing Retreat held at Gavnø, Næstved?

PhD Day in November

Beslutning

PhD Writing Retreat at Gavnø:

- Positive feedback overall, well planned, but many participants withdrew last minute.
- Discussion about making registration a firmer commitment, with possible administrative oversight.

PhD Day:

- Received positive feedback, would like to keep the PhD assembly on the day.

Punkt 9: Misc. (14.10->)

Misc.

Beslutning

Perspectives from VIP about course: Power of Ideas and Knowledge

- Suggestions for better communication and coordination regarding course offerings.
- Opportunities to attract Norwegian students were noted, as two attended the course. Maybe we should focus on that.