

**Statute for the PhD-Program in Political Science  
at the Department of Political Science  
Copenhagen University**

**Adopted by the Faculty of Social Sciences Doctoral Committee of 31 August 2011**

## **Introductory remarks**

The PhD-program at Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen is governed by the following rules:

University of 7.12.2007: <http://www.ku.dk/regel/1/005.html>

PhD-order No. 18 of 14.01.2008: <http://www.ku.dk/regel/5/5709.html>

Joint PhD-rules and guidelines adopted at Copenhagen University's Graduate Education of 21 May 2008: [http://cms.ku.dk/upload/application/pdf/2555bedc/PhD\\_faelles\\_regler.pdf](http://cms.ku.dk/upload/application/pdf/2555bedc/PhD_faelles_regler.pdf)

The PhD-regulations and guidelines of the Faculty of Social Sciences have incorporated the other set of rules and contains the current rules governing the general aspects of the PhD education. The PhD-program at the Department of Political Science therefore only detailing areas requiring further specification.

### **1. Purpose**

The PhD-program qualifies the student to independently carry out research, development and teaching assignments at an international level within the discipline of political science. These skills are applicable in both the private and public sector, where a broad academic knowledge is required. The PhD-program emphasizes research under the guidance of a PhD-supervisor.

The PhD-student will, after completion of training, have made a significant contribution to the development of new knowledge within political science, and will possess extensive knowledge of the profession at the highest international standards. It requires the student to master the mainstream theories and methods in political science with emphasis on the chosen subject discipline, capable of initiating and managing a research project, and to analyze, evaluate and develop new ideas within the subject area. In addition, the student will take part in specialist areas of international discussions and disseminate scientific news and progress to a wider audience.

### **2. Structure: The PhD-Program**

At the Department of Political Science, the PhD-program committee consists of an elected PhD-program director, elected PhD students, and representatives designated by the head of the department. The number of VIP and PhD-students is the same. The committee is among other things responsible for The Graduate School Rules at the Department of Political Science, and it has own budget. Information on the PhD-program is continuously updated at: <http://www.polsci.ku.dk/uddannelse/PhD/>

### **3. Admission**

Admission and enrollment is done on the background of a written application, see The Graduate School rules. Admission puts particular emphasis on the applicant's professional qualifications to carry out doctoral study, the research project's suitability as a PhD-project, and whether the Department can provide the necessary technical and financial resources available for the proper implementation of the training.

#### **5 + 3 Program**

The applicant must at the time of enrollment have completed a relevant MA-degree. If the MA-degree is not in political science, or if the master grade is not based on a BA in Political Science, the applicant must explain and demonstrate acquired political science qualifications. Whether these are sufficient to gain access to the study is based on an individual decision. The decision is taken by the head of department and the head of the PhD-program.

#### **4 + 4 Program**

The applicant must before enrolment have completed a BA in political science and education courses equivalent to 60 ECTS of a Master's degree. If training is not conducted at the Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, a credit transfer must be obtained from the Study Board for the BA and MA-programs.

The Master program at Department of Political Science stipulates a number of requirements for the exam forms and subjects. When enrolling in the PhD program through the 4+4 PhD program, the following specific criteria are required for the 60 ECTS points, which must be collected before enrolling in the 4+4 PhD program:

1. The course in Public Law must be passed
2. At least 40 ECTS must be obtained within the political science area
3. In addition, (at least) 10 ECTS must be obtained from at least two of the following three areas: 1) Political science with history of ideas, 2) public administration, and 3) international politics  
Maximum two seminars of 10 ECTS each can be used to collect the full 60 ECTS.
4. Internships can count for maximum of 10 ECTS, and
5. At least 3 exams must be completed and graded under the 7-step scale

### **4. The PhD-program**

#### **Particularly about the 4+4 Program**

PhD-students under the 4+4 program must during the first 2 years of PhD study pass the master exams. Students who, during these 2 years discontinue their PhD study, will be assessed under the general curriculum of the MA-program in political science. The master degree (can.scient.pol) during the 4+4 program is completed by obtaining the remaining 60 ECTS credits as follows:

1. Passing the courses at the master corresponding to 30 ECTS. Internship cannot replace training.

2. Replacing the master thesis with a combined thesis of 30 ECTS comprising:
  - *Graduate Project* (20 ECTS), which consists of a thesis of no more than 16,000 words and an oral examination. Both will be evaluated as 'Pass/No-pass' with external censorship. The graduate project must present the PhD project in its entirety and contain the first part of the analysis. It can include published articles, or articles that are ready for publishing. The graduate is submitted and assessed at the end of the fourth semester of the PhD program.
  - *Preliminary research design* (10 ECTS), which consists of a written presentation of maximum 9,000 words on the PhD project's topic, problem formulation, methodology, theoretical contributions and hypotheses. The presentation is submitted and defended during the second semester. Evaluation is based on an overall assessment of the written presentation and the oral defense as a 'Pass/no-pass' degree with external censorship.

### **Participation/anchoring in the research milieu**

At the Department of Political Science, the PhD-students will be anchored in the department's research in the following manner:

- They are part of the research group (political science, public administration, and international politics) that fit best with their project. The research groups organize half-day or full day seminars, as well as other social activities.
- They are part of the department's research centers.
- They present their work at the obligatory internal PhD-course, which is held two-four times per year. Active participation is mandatory in the course where the student is not presenting. When the student is presenting, the presented work will be discussed by supervisor, a first discussant (VIP'er from the department or external researcher at the assistant professor level or above), and another discussant (PhD-students). Along with comments from other participants.
- There will be a final seminar where a final draft of the thesis is presented and commented by two discussants (one may be external researcher at the associate professor or professor level).

### **Courses**

A PhD-student (both under the 4+4 and 5+3 program) is required to take PhD-courses equivalent to at least 30 ECTS points. At the Department of Political Science, the ECTS points can be obtained in the following manner:

- The obligatory internal PhD-course, three presentations of papers (each 7-10,000 of words), presence and discussants work at seminars during the enrollment in the program. In total: approximately three to four days per semester and three paper presentation in total during the program: 5 ECTS.
- International conferences give ½ point for each conference day. A paper must be presented. A maximum of four ECTS points can be obtained through conferences.
- The faculty of Social Science has an obligatory introductory course to the PhD-program. Other courses from the faculty (e.g. English writing, media appearance, public

presentation or pedagogical / teaching courses) can give  $\frac{1}{2}$  ECTS points per day. A maximum of two ECTS points can be obtained through these types of courses.

- The department offers three obligatory PhD-courses: “Research design“, “Advanced qualitative analysis” and “Advanced quantitative analysis”. Each course gives 5 ECTS points.
- Other PhD-courses give  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points for paper presentation (paper length must be at least 5,000 words, excluding bibliography) and  $\frac{1}{2}$  point for each course day (minimum 6 hours).