

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



**STATUTE FOR THE PHD PROGRAM
IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**AT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL
SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN**

**ADOPTED BY THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

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

- [The Danish University Act \(Universitetsloven\) of 25 March 2013](#) - the text is only available in Danish. There is only a previous, *not updated* [version of the law available in English](#).
- [Ministerial order No 1039 of 27 August 2013](#).
- "[General rules and guidelines for the PhD programme at the University of Copenhagen](#)"

The PhD regulations and guidelines of the Faculty of Social Sciences have incorporated the other set of rules and contain 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/>

Knowledge dissemination is a mandatory part of the PhD study program. The requirement to disseminate research can be fulfilled in various ways, since knowledge dissemination can take many forms. The PhD student may write feature articles or analytical articles for news papers, short articles, texts for relevant homepages, or (s)he may appear in a professional capacity on TV or on the radio or in other media. The knowledge dissemination can take place through Danish or international media. PhD students who do not disseminate their research either on their own or with the help of their departments, must take a course in knowledge dissemination.

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 MSc degree. If the MSc degree is not in political science, or if the master grade is not based on a BSc 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 BSc/BA in Political science or related field and courses equivalent to 60 ECTS of a relevant Master's degree. If the student has been enrolled at another institution than the Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, a credit transfer must be obtained from the Study Board for the BSc/BA and MSc/MA programs.

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 MSc in political science. The master degree (cand.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 level corresponding to 30 ECTS. Internship cannot give ECTS. ECTS can be obtained as paper assignments or master's courses. ECTS follow the current statute of the MSc program in political science at University of Copenhagen.
2. Replacing the master thesis with a combined thesis of 30 ECTS comprising of an examination graded under the 7 point scale held by the end of the fourth semester of the PhD program. One grade according to the 7 point scale is given, reflecting an overall evaluation of the written theses, the abstract and the oral performance. The thesis content carries the main weight.
3. The assessment committee consists of the supervisor(s) and an external examiner. The external examiner is appointed by the head of the PhD program. The oral exam lasts up to two hours and takes outset in the written parts of the exam. The written parts of the exam consist of:
 4. *Graduate Project*, which has a maximum length of 25.000 words. The graduate project must present the PhD project in its entirety and contain the first part of the analysis. It should include the research design or structure of the PhD project, which may include one or more of the following elements: research question, methodology, empirical and/or theoretical contributions, and main claims. The graduate project can include published articles, or articles that are ready for publication, or e.g. a detailed literature review.
5. When all 60 ECTS has been granted, the study board at MSc program can grant the title of cand.scient.pol.
6. After cand.scient.pol degree has been granted, the 4+4 PhD student must pass additional 30 ECTS following the general requirement (see below).
7. The external examiner at the exam after two years cannot be part of the final PhD assessment committee.

ANCHORING IN THE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

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 (VIPs 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 an external researcher at the associate professor or professor level).

PHD COURSES AND CONFERENCES

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 ½ ECTS points per day. A maximum of two ECTS points can be obtained through these types of courses.
- The department regularly offers the mandatory 5 ECTS PhD course "Research design in Political Science". All PhD students in the programme must complete the course during their enrollment. In addition, all PhD students must complete at least 5 ECTS methods courses and at least 5 ECTS courses that are theoretical or empirical (not method) out of the total 30 ECTS.
- Other PhD courses give 2½ points for paper presentation (paper length must be at least 5,000 words, excluding bibliography) and ½ point for each course day (minimum 6 hours).