PhD School work flows
# The overall processes in a PhD student’s life at DTU

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## Responsible

- **Supervisor**
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## Who can help?

- **Head of section**
- **Rolf Henrik Berg**
- **HR**
- **AØR**
- **PhD school admins**
- **Supervisor**
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## PhD Office

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Formal regulation of the PhD study

According to Danish regulation the PhD study program corresponds to three years of full-time studies and includes:

- Completing an independent, scientific project
- A PhD study program (courses equivalent to 30 ECTS points)
- Teaching and dissemination of knowledge (840 TA-hours)
- External Research Stay

The PhD degree is awarded in recognition of the recipient having completed a PhD program as well as having defended a thesis in a satisfactory way.

- The PhD graduate has documented a capacity to carry out a scientific project involving independent application of the relevant scientific methodology, thereby displaying a research effort at a level corresponding to international standards of PhD degrees within the specific field.

Additional readings:

- DTU PhD guide: [https://www.dtu.dk/english/education/phd/rules/phdguide](https://www.dtu.dk/english/education/phd/rules/phdguide)
Health Tech PhD School & Life Science PhD Committee

Health Tech PhD School

PhD studies at DTU are conducted at PhD schools. PhD students at Health Tech and Centre for Diagnostics belongs Health Tech PhD School.

Health Tech PhD School is managed by 2 local PhD admins and the Head of Health Tech PhD school. https://www.inside.dtu.dk/en/medarbejder/institutter/dtu-sundhedsteknologi/phd-administration

Health Tech PhD School is included in Life Science PhD Committee, that meet once a month to discuss the approval of various cases in relation to the PhD School and the PhD students. https://www.inside.dtu.dk/Undervisning/Administration/Phd-uddannelses-administratorer/Medlemmer_af_programudvalgene/Life-Science

Who is who:

- Health Tech PhD admins: Tine Elkjær Jørgensen & Louise Søby Møller
- Head of Health Tech PhD School: Peter E. Andersen
- Central PhD Office contact (bldg. 101): Marina Chan
- Life Science PhD Committee chair person: Charlotte Scheutz
- Health Tech PhD School representants in Life Science PhD Committee; VIP: Andrew Urquhart (VIP, elected ever 3. year) + Nayere Taebina (PhD Student, elected yearly in November).
- Dean of Graduate Studies & International Affairs: Philip John Binning

Information flow
PhDigital

PhDigital is DTU's digital platform for PhD administration of PhD students.

**How do I use PhDigital?**

**Students:**
- PhD students can electronically fill in and submit their study and project plans as well as the half-year reports via PhDigital. All PhD students have their own personal PhDigital workspace with an overview of awaiting tasks and submitted/approved documents.
- As a new PhD student you will receive an email notification from PhDigital when your account has been activated and you can start using the system.
- The PhD student must be officially enrolled before they can access PhDigital.

**Supervisors:**
- Main supervisors and Head of PhD School access PhDigital to get an overview of their awaiting task as well as a list of their PhD students. Submitted documents are reviewed, commented, approved or rejected via PhDigital.

**Further reading and guidance:**
- Phdigital.dtu.dk
Start-up

1. Financing & type of PhD
2. Posting a new PhD position
3. Job interview & selection of PhD candidate
4. Academic approval
5. Enrolment to DTU
Posting new PhD positions

• All new positions are posted as a job ad through DTU’s online HR system TALEO.

• Before a job ad can be published, the supervisor must follow the 6 steps below:
  – Step 1: Financial grounds: supervisor must secure written confirmation of payroll funds from Head of Section and PC/AØR.
  – Step 3: decide where to publish the job ad (if you choose to publish outside of DTU, HR will pay for 1 extern post.
  – Step 4: work out screening questions
  – Step 5: inform about group number/stednr?
  – Step 6: inform about collaborators that need access to the candidates

All information above is to be mailed to HR consultant, Christina Fisher (cfisc@dtu.dk), who will assist the employment process and publish the job ad when step 1-6 is done.
Job interviews and shutting down the job ad

Interviews and screening of candidates:

- Supervisor is responsible for selecting suitable candidates for an interview
  - The PhD school recommends face-to-face interviews.
  - The Head of the PhD school offers to take part in the interviews or points to the head of section to take part in the interviews.
  - Caroline Van Oosterhout (cvoo@dtu.dk) and Marianne Harms Østergaard (mhos@dtu.dk) can support the supervisor access and extract data in TALEO from the candidates who have applied.

Shutting down the job add:

- After a candidate is chosen and approved by the head of section, the supervisor must do the following:
  - Through TALEO (?) forward the chosen candidate to HR for further employment process – choose "skal ansættes" (Caroline an Marianne can support)
  - Give a personal refusal to the candidates who has been interviewed but were not offered the PhD position.
  - Inform Caroline about the candidates who was interviewed, so that they can be sent a written rejection.

- Discussion of salary is between Christina Fischer and the Head of Section

- When employing a PhD student with citizenship outside EU/EEA it is necessary calculate an additional 2-3 months of case work time to secure work and residence permission, read more here
Academic approval and funding plan

After a candidate is chosen they must be academically approved by the PhD committee. Use the DTU standard form to apply for academic approval. All documents must be e-mailed to PhD admins Tine and Louise, who will secure the signature and approval of the Head of the PhD School before forwarding the application to the PhD committee:

- DTU standard application form
- Candidate’s application addressed to the Dean
- Description of project
- Statement by department (use DTU standard form)
- Bachelor + Master diplomas with transcripts of grades (grade min. of 8 on average of courses, and 10 of thesis project – separate grade)
- ‘Weighted average grades’ or ‘Conversion of foreign grades’- sheet (use DTU standard excel form)
- Applicant’s CV
- Supervisors’ CV and publication lists
- Funding plan (use DTU standard form) Please note that the Head of the PhD School do not approve any applications without a valid funding plan

All PhD standard forms can be found here: https://www.inside.dtu.dk/en/undervisning/administration/phd-uddannelse-administratorer?utm_source=Quick&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=InQphdadm
Funding plan

- A funding plan is an account of the grants available for funding a PhD study program. The plan must document that funding is available for the entire study period.

- Supervisor is responsible – must be forwarded to Health Tech PhD admins together with the application of academic approval.

- If the applicant is awarded a DTU stipend, this must be stated in the funding plan.

- If the applicant is co-financed by more than 1 company, name only the largest of them.
Funding plan – collaboration agreements

Collaboration agreements from DTU Legal and Contracts (in short “J&K”) signed by both partners – supervisor is responsible.

Enrolment to DTU is only possible once the collaboration agreement is signed by both partners within a year of the applicant’s academic approval.

All externally employed PhDs are required to have a collaboration agreement, pay attention to the following type of studies in the funding plan:

- 321 (standard J&K)
- 341 (standard J&K)
- 347 (standard J&K)
- 351 (standard J&K)
- 354 (standard J&K)
- 359 Marie Curie company PhDs need a separat collaboration agreement between DTU and the company involved
- 381 Non-employed PhD/privatist need a collaboration agreement between the PhD student and DTU (standard J&K)
- 500 Industrial PhD need a grant letter/’tilsagnsskrivelse’ from IF + a collaboration agreement (standard J&K)

Co-funded DTU employed PhDs might also need a collaboration agreement. If the PhD project’s IPR and financing is not already regulated through a larger scientific project, a collaboration agreement is required, pay attention to the following type of studies in the funding plan:

- 318 (standard J&K)
- 345 (standard J&K)
- 352 (standard J&K)
- 356 (standard J&K)
- 356 Marie Curie PhD employed at DTU need a consortium agreement.

Who can help?
Contact Rolf Henrik Berg for help finding the correct legal template.
Read more here: https://www.dtu.dk/Samarbejde/Samarbejde-med-forskere/Phd-aftaler
Work and residence permits

PhD students from non-Nordic/EU/EEA/Swiss countries:
  • The supervisor is responsible that non-Nordic applicants outside of the EU/EAA/Swiss countries has a work and residence permit from the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) that match the study period.
  • Please contact the PhD admins and expect 2-3 months case work time after the student has been academic approved.

EU residence permit for EU/EAA citizens
  • EU/EAA citizens may freely enter Denmark and remain in the country for up to 3 months without an EU residence permit. The PhD student can start work before receiving the residence permit and HR will automatically send the newly enrolled PhD student guidelines on how to apply.

Nordic citizens
  • Nordic citizens are free to live, work, and study in Denmark, consequently, they do not need a visitor’s visa or a residence or work permit.
HR contract and DTU enrolment

Contract
- DTU HR Christina Fischer will fix the contract after academic approval and the funding plan is approved.
- Students outside of EU/EAA need a work and residence permit prior to receiving the contract from HR DTU.

Enrolment
The DTU PhD Office enrolls a PhD-candidate to DTU. Enrolment is contingent of:
- Academic approval: the student must be enrolled to DTU within 1 year of academic approval.
- Funding plan
- Collaboration agreement is needed if the PhD project is co-funded and/or the candidate is externally employed
- IF grant letter/’tilsagnsskrivelse’ is needed if it is an industrial PhD project
Education and study flow

Study- and project plan → Half year reports → Dissemination and TA-hours → PhD 1 year interview → External stay → Write thesis/publish articles → Submit thesis
The study- and project plan

PhD student and supervisor is responsible

The study- and project plan is to be filled in by the PhD student in collaboration with the supervisor, and serves as a formal contract between DTU and the PhD student securing the student a sufficiently high quality of scientific work.
It is also the foundation on which the PhD assessment committee evaluates if the achieved results are in accordance with the planned course of study when submitting the final PhD thesis.

Must be submitted in PhDigital no later than 2 months after the first day of employment.

Special attention on *external stay*:
• Head of PhD Health Tech School/ and Life Science PhD committee will reject study plans that do not contain a plausible plan for an external stay.

Special attention on and *department work/dissemination/TA hours*:
• The study and project plan must specify which activities the student wish to have approved as department work and dissemination activities and will be rejected by Health Tech Head of the PhD School if the dissemination requirements are not met.

• If changes are made to the original study plan: submit an updated and revised study plan in PhDigital.

Further reading:
• Research stay abroad: https://www.inside.dtu.dk/en/undervisning/regler/phd-uddannelse-studerende/eksternt_ophold
• The project- and study plan: https://www.dtu.dk/english/education/phd/rules/phdguide/study_plan
Half year reports

The PhD student is responsible. The half year report confirms that progress matches the study- and project plan, and has to be approved by the supervisor and Head of PhD School.

If the scientific work deviates from the study plan: update the study plan (remember when the new study plan is evaluated it is not just the changes that are evaluated).

A "negative" half year report has two levels:

- ‘not fully satisfactory’ can/should be used to indicate deviations from plan, ex. new knowledge, broken equipment etc.; or
- ‘not satisfactory’ means that a three month recovery plan need to be proposed by the supervisor and approved by the student. If not adhered to by the student, his or her contract will be terminated.

Mandatory requirements of half-year reports

First half-year report is due 4,5 months from the start of the PhD employment. The subsequent half-year report are to be submitted after:

- 10,5 months
- 16,5 months
- 22,5 months
- 28,5 months
- 34,5 months

Note that the head of the PhD School will reject all half-year reports that do not meet the below enlisted requirements:

- 1st half year report must contain *Dissemination and TA hours*
- 2nd half-year report must clearly state the planning of external research
- 3rd half-year report: from the 3rd half year report onwards all half-year reports must include an accumulated list of publications (Health Tech requirement)
- 4th half-year report must contain clearly stated information on completed stay, planned stay or a dispensation. A dispensation may be granted in cases of personal or family related obstacles based on a recommendation from the main supervisor and the PhD student grants the dispensation.
External research stay

• PhD students are required to enter into active research environments outside DTU as part of the programme, either through stays at other research institutions or private research companies etc. - primarily foreign ones.

• This also applies to industrial PhD students and other students employed externally.

• DTU recommends that an external research stay lasts for 3-6 months.

• By visiting another research environment, the PhD student can expand his/her network, participate in PhD courses, author articles and/or carry out research and thereby collect additional contributions to the research project.

• Exceptions: Marie Curie-students and joint/double degree students are not required to undertake an external stay.

Start early; planning a research stay abroad takes time and resources. Read more here: https://www.inside.dtu.dk/en/undervisning/regler/phd-uddannelselse-studerende/eksternt_ophold

Funding

• DTU Health Tech suggests that the PhD student to apply for travel grants. For upcoming and current grants see here: https://www.inside.dtu.dk/Medarbejder/Forskning-innovation-og-raadgivning/Finansiering-fonde-og-legater/Muligheder-for-at-soege-hos-fonde-og-raad/Funding-categories-e-g-postdocs-infrastructure-travels-etc/Travel-and-research-stays-abroad.
Dissemination and teaching assistant (TA-) hours (840)

Scientific Dissemination
- PhD students are required to complete 420 hours of scientific dissemination of in relation to the PhD project, eg. publication activities (writing conference and journal papers), conference presentations (talks and posters), and writing of thesis etc.

Applying for funding for participation in conferences
DTU Health Tech expects PhD students to cover their expenses during conferences through funding, see here: https://www.inside.dtu.dk/Medarbejder/Forskning-innovation-og-raadgivning/Finansiering-fonde-og-legater/Muligheder-for-at-soege-hos-fonde-og-raad/Funding-categories-e-g-postdocs-infrastructure-travels-etc/Conferences.

Department work
- In addition to the scientific dissemination, PhD students are required to complete 420 hours of department work of a various of academic tasks, eg. Teaching and assistance (TA) in regular courses and lab activities, co-supervision of BSc students and co-supervision of MSc students, organization of work shops, PhD committee work or other academic tasks.

Exceptions
- Industrial PhDs are not not required to engage in department work, TA-hours or scientific dissemination, as they are not employed by DTU.
- Marie Curie PhDs are not not required to engage in department work, TA-hours or scientific dissemination due to grant agreement.
1-year PhD interview

- PhD interview after approximately one year is to be conducted by Head of Section. Is s/he not available, Head of Division will substitute.

- This is an non-academic conversation which focuses on the student’s general well being at in the work environment and socially.
The PhD student/supervisor needs to contact the PhD admins when:

- Changes in the supervisor team*

- Transferring ETCS from external courses approved in the study- and project plan.

- Applying for leave*

- Applying for extension due to illness*

- Applying for extensions*
  - It is possible to extend 6 month by PhD school/more than 6 months by Dean (has to be applied for before the final day of the current study plan). In general, DTU Health Tech does not grant extensions at large.

*Use DTU standard form: https://www.inside.dtu.dk/Undervisning/Administration/Phd-uddannelses-administratorer?utm_source=Quick&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=InQphdadm.
Submission of thesis and more

• Submission of thesis - PhD student is responsible: The thesis is to be submitted to the PhD admins on the end date of the study: 1 electronic version in a PDF file incl the check list filled in. Health Tech does not pay for hard copies of the thesis.

  – Please note, **when submitted, it is no longer possible to make corrections in your thesis.** However, should you have changes, you may submit a maximum of 2 pages describing these changes, no later than 14 days after your defence. The document is to be submitted to the PhD admins.

  – **Supervisor report** – supervisor is responsible: The PhD student can only submit the thesis when the supervisor report has been submitted; the supervisor report states that the course of the studies has been completed satisfactorily in regard to courses and dissemination and as explained in the approved study- and project plan. **Deadline is 1 month before the thesis submission date.**

• Proposal for the members of the assessment committee, incl. CVs & publication lists – supervisor is responsible. The PhD student can only submit the thesis when the assessment committee has been submitted:
  – The supervisor selects 1 internal member (not necessarily an expert in the field), and 2 external members (at least one international).
  – The members of the assessment committee must be professors, senior associate professors, associate professors, senior researchers or others with corresponding qualifications. Professor emeriti may not be members of the assessment committee. The members must not have conducted any dissemination work together or have had any recent relation with supervisor(s) (as e.g., a former PhD student who graduated within last 5 years). **Deadline is 1 month before the thesis submission date**

• Joint co-author statements – PhD student is responsible, deadline is thesis submission date

• Popular abstract – PhD student is responsible, deadline is thesis submission date

1-2 months before the thesis submission deadline, the supervisor must put together and submit the assessment committee via via email to the department's PhD admins.

When the assessment committee has been approved:
1) The PhD office sends an email and a letter to the PhD student concerning the approval of the assessment committee, cc the department’s PhD admins.
2) The PhD office sends an email to the assessment committee containing information about the composition of the evaluation committee.
The PhD student hands in his/her thesis and the new check list to the PhD admin at the department.

The PhD admins send the thesis to the PhD office when all the necessary documents on the check list have been submitted. If this is not the case, the thesis will be rejected in DTU-DOCX and will not be registered as submitted until the check list is ok.

Thesis Submission Check List:
- Possible embargo periods/application for patent
- Thesis submitted
- Revised study plan
- Assessment Committee approved
- JAS
- Supervisor report
- Popular Science summary

A: The thesis has not been selected for a plagiarism spot check

B: The thesis has been selected for a spot check
**Workflow for plagiarism spot checks**

**A) Not selected for plagiarism check:**

- Normal evaluation process begins
- The PhD office sends a receipt for the submitted PhD thesis to the PhD student, cc PhD admins at DTU Health Tech. In this email, it is explained that the evaluation process has begun, and the student is informed that his/her thesis has not been selected for plagiarism spot check.

**B) Selected for plagiarism check:**

- The PhD office forwards the PhD thesis to the plagiarism team and sends an information email to the PhD student, cc the main supervisor, the head of the PhD school and the PhD admins
- The plagiarism team conducts a technical screening of the thesis within 1-2 days and forwards the screening results to the head of the PhD school and the PhD admins
- The Head of the PhD school forwards the screening results to the plagiarism team via dtubibliotek-plagiattjek@dtu.dk
- Within 5 working days from the reception of the screening results, Cc Head of the PhD school and the PhD admins.

**B1) If there is no suspicion of plagiarism or self-plagiarism:**

- The PhD office informs the student, cc the PhD admins, main supervisor and the head of the PhD school.

**B2) If there is a suspicion of plagiarism or self-plagiarism:**

- The assessment process is stopped, and DTU’s research office takes over the case.
- NB: The PhD office will notify the assessment committee hereof.

**PhD office**

**PhD office**

**PhD office**

**PhD admin/Head of the PhD school**

**PhD office**

**PhD office**

**PhD office**

**Research office (AFR)**
Explanation: Plagiarism and self-plagiarism

Self-plagiarism is defined as questionable scientific practice and is handled by DTU.
The PhD student and the main supervisor will be invited to a meeting by the head of the PhD school.
The evaluation process may be halted by the PhD office. The PhD office will inform the assessment committee.

Plagiarism is defined as scientific misconduct and is handled by NVU.
If there is a substantiated suspicion of plagiarism, the case is forwarded to the Danish Committee on Research Misconduct (NVU).
The evaluation process is stopped until a decision has been reached by the NVU. The PhD office informs the assessment committee hereof.
Assessment and defence

1. Supervisor submits proposal of assessment committee
   - Ex 1 September

2. Head of Life Science PhD Committee approves proposal
   - Ex 8 September

3. 101 PhD office forwards thesis to the assessment committee members
   - Ex 9 September

4. 2 months deadline for assessment committee to write preliminary assessment of thesis
   - Ex 9 November

5. PhD student receives preliminary assessment min. 2 weeks before defence date
   - Ex. 10 November

6. PhD defence
   - Ex 24 November
Planning of defence

• Setting a date for defence: must be held within 3 month of submission of thesis – supervisor is responsible

• Max. 3 hours: 45 min. oral presentation by the PhD student and exam up to 2 hours and 15 min. the student will respond to questions – supervisor is responsible to contact PhD admins who will fix a program and catering.

• Proposal of assessment committee must be submitted on thesis submission date – supervisor is responsible

• Chairperson at defence: professor/emeritus, associate professor level – supervisor is responsible
Preliminary assessment (before defence)

- The Head of Life Science PhD committee evaluates the proposed assessment committee members
- When approved, the PhD admins will forward the thesis + the joint author statements to the assessment committee – PhD admins are responsible.
- The assessment committee writes a preliminary assessment stating that the PhD thesis is suitable for defence (using the DTU form, forwarded by the PhD Office once the assessment committee is approved).
- Deadline is 2 weeks before the defence - chairperson of assessment committee is responsible

Final assessment (after defence)

- Assessment committee finish the final written assessment of PhD thesis and forward the final assessment to the PhD admins – chairperson of assessment committee is responsible
Economy and practical organization of defense

Economy of defense
• Expenses in connection with defense is payed by the PhD project economy.

Practical organization of defense PhD admins/supervisor:
• Censors book their own flights – supervisor is responsible
• Booking of the accommodation to censors – supervisor is responsible for informing the PhD admins with dates
• Booking of pre-committee room + catering – PhD admins are responsible
• Booking of auditorium - PhD admins are responsible
• Booking of reception + accommodation – PhD admins are responsible
Publications of thesis, confidentiality and copyrights

Publication of thesis in DTU ORBIT – PhD admins are responsible
• All PhD projects must be published in DTU Orbit

Confidentiality – student is responsible
• If the thesis has content which must not be published, the student is either obligated to
  1) send a separate PDF file containing the abstract and information about all publications (title/authors) which are part of the thesis; or
  2) send a separate PDF file containing a revised version of the thesis acceptable for publication.
• If the PhD thesis is published and contains unpublished manuscripts or unpublished data, it may jeopardise subsequent publication in a scientific journal. Most journals will only publish data/manuscripts which have not been made public. **So please inform the PhD admins if there is something confidential in the thesis.**

Copyright – student is responsible
• If articles in the thesis has already been published, you need to check the emargo period as you might need permission from the publisher to publish the articles in your thesis. If you have included already published articles in your thesis you should:
  1) Contact your publishers and ask them, if it is all right to publish the articles in connection with the thesis. If they say "yes" to the postprint version, you need to ask whether they can waive the 6 months' embargo that's usually on that version; or
  2) If they say "no" to the postprint version, you need to remove the articles from your thesis, and include a page with links to the articles already online.

Publications of thesis at the Danish Royal Library:
• PhD students are obliged to publish the thesis at the Danish Royal Library – student is responsible, be aware of the abovementioned problematics.
PhD Diploma

- It takes up to 3 months before the PhD graduate receives his/her diploma from the PhD Office.

- PhD’s under the Industrial PhD programme must see to it that their diploma is uploaded to Innovation Fund Denmark through e-grant.