

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES



ANNUAL REPORT 2024 THE PHD SCHOOL IN THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Contents

Introduction by the Head of the PhD School	3
PhD students enrolled	4
PhD students newly enrolled during 2024 by place of employment	5
New PhD enrolments by funding	6
PhD project in focus: Representing Royal Splendour at Rosenborg Castle	7
PhD students by gender and nationality	8
PhD degrees awarded	9
Duration of PhD study	9
PhD project in focus: Grammar and Agrammatism in Greenlandic	10
Newly enrolled PhD students by department in 2024	11
Number of PhD degrees awarded by department in 2024	13
Newly enrolled PhD students 2024 – Department, project title and supervisor	14
PhD degrees awarded 2024 – Department, project title and supervisor	16
Key PhD statistics for the Faculties of Humanities, Law, Social Sciences and Theology	18
Faculty of Humanities - Organisation of PhD School	19

Introduction by the Head of the PhD School

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report of the PhD School in the Humanities at the University of Copenhagen.

The research undertaken by our PhD students continues to play a vital role in sustaining and advancing the diverse disciplines within the Faculty of Humanities. Our mission is to support PhD research of the highest international quality by providing expert academic supervision, comprehensive research training, opportunities for international exchange, and integration into strong and supportive local research environments.

International academic stays are essential for cultivating excellence in PhD research. Despite ongoing geopolitical uncertainties, we continue to encourage long-term research visits to universities abroad. The knowledge and perspectives our PhD students bring back from these stays highlight the enduring value of global academic collaboration. Thank you to the host institutions and to the individual PhD scholars for their efforts in organising and completing these rewarding research experiences.

Interest in our PhD fellowships for bottom-up, self-defined research projects remains exceptionally high. Our most recent call for applications attracted over 1,000 submissions from around the world for approximately 25 available fellowships offered by the Departments. This overwhelming response reflects the vast global talent in the humanities, even as it far exceeds our current capacity.

PhD research in the humanities often addresses pressing societal challenges and holds the potential to engage external stakeholders. In December 2024, the PhD Committee hosted a successful PhD Career Day, which demonstrated considerable interest from employers beyond academia. Moreover, data from Statistics Denmark indicates that a significant number of humanities PhD graduates go on to establish their own businesses. In collaboration with the Queen Mary Centre and the PhD School in the Social Sciences, we now offer courses focusing on external partnerships, professional networking, and career opportunities beyond academia, including training in pitching business ideas grounded in PhD research.

In 2024, we initiated an administrative reform that consolidated the PhD administration into a centralised unit at the University of Copenhagen. While this reorganisation offers new opportunities to draw on university-wide expertise and enhance the local academic environment, we recognise that adjusting to the new structure takes time. I would like to thank everyone involved in the preparation for this transition, and to users for their patience and understanding as the new administrative model is established.

This report includes a list of the many new PhD projects launched during the year, as well as completed dissertations that present cutting-edge research findings. We have also chosen to highlight two ongoing PhD projects—by Louise Kjærgaard Depner and Mads Nielsen—to offer a glimpse into the work being carried out by our PhD students in the humanities.

Enjoy the reading!



Dorthe Gert Simonsen,
Head of the PhD School
at the Faculty of Humanities

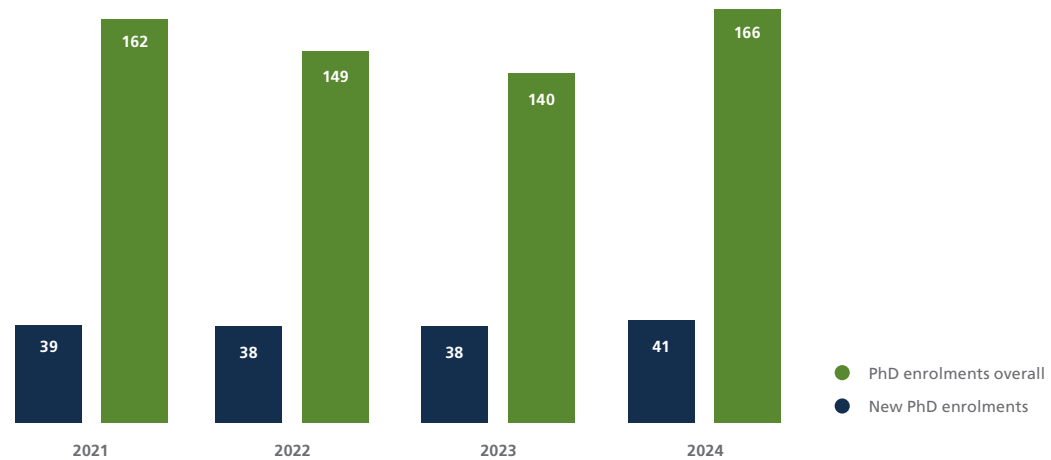
PhD students enrolled

By the 31st of December 2024, the PhD School at the Faculty of Humanities had a total of 166 enrolled PhD students. The number includes PhD students on leave. A total of 41 PhD students enrolled during 2024.



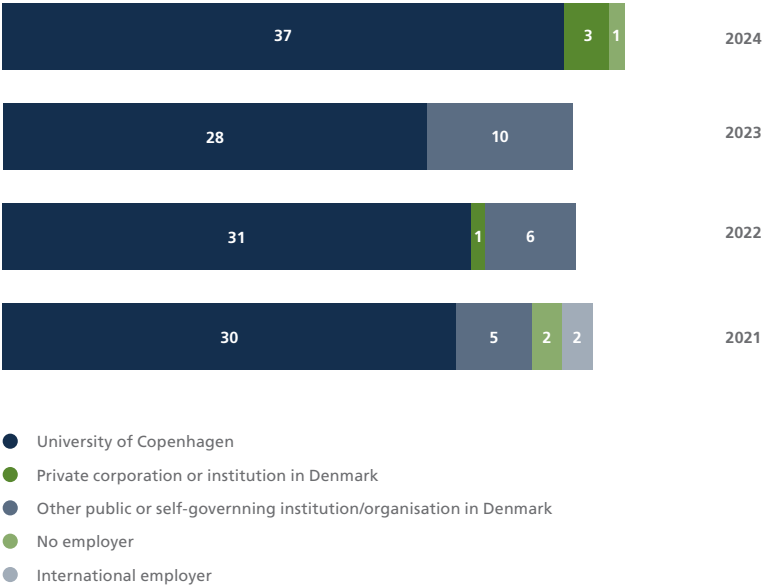
166

Total number of PhD students enrolled in 2024



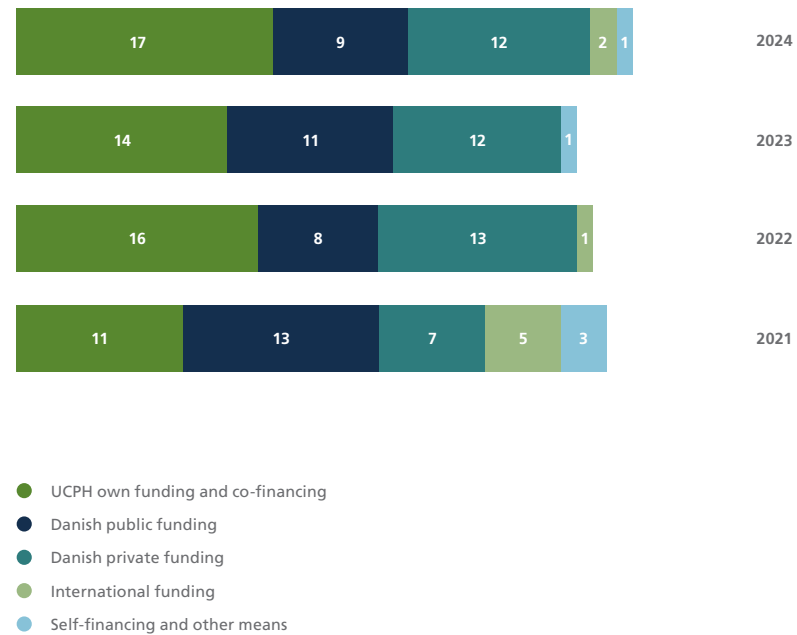
PhD students newly enrolled during 2024 by place of employment

This figure shows the distribution of the newly enrolled PhD students by place of employment (University of Copenhagen, private corporation or institution in Denmark, other public or self-governing institution/organisation in Denmark, no employer, international employer).



New PhD enrolment by funding

This figure shows how newly enrolled PhD students are funded (UCPH own funding and co-financing, Danish public funding, Danish private funding, International funding, Self-financing and other means).



Representing Royal Splendour at Rosenborg Castle

Louise Kjærgaard Depner is conducting research at the SAXO Institute, Department of Ethnology, where she explores the role of Rosenborg Castle in Copenhagen as a site of royal representation, collecting, and displays of splendour from the 17th century to today. Her research focuses on how sensory, atmospheric, and material aspects have shaped the way the castle's collection has been displayed and encountered over time. By integrating historical and ethnographic methods, Depner's project sheds new light on the experience of Rosenborg's interiors, analysing elements such as the impact of light and dark on curation and visitor engagement.

A particularly intriguing case study examines the so-called wetting trap chair, a playful mechanical object from the court of King Christian V, designed to startle and amuse sitters. The chair has likely been designed in the 1680s to entrap the sitter, make noises and spout water. Equipped with hidden arm clamps, a concealed water reservoir, and a bellows producing flatulent noises, the chair was used to entertain guests while also reflecting the court's fascination with spectacle and social hierarchy. Such sensory objects illustrate how humour and power intertwined in royal settings.

"We often talk of splendour when referring to royal palaces and collections, but it is rarely understood as more than an inherent property of objects. My research shows that splendour is actually about the interactions between people and objects, both historically and today."

Through fieldwork and sensory reconstructions, Depner reimagines how historical encounters with such objects might be experienced today, using auditory and visual techniques.

By revisiting Rosenborg's past through a sensory and atmospheric lens, Depner's research offers new insights into how historic architecture and collections can be meaningfully engaged by modern-day curators and visitors, ensuring that the castle remains a dynamic and immersive heritage site.



Louise Kjærgaard Depner, PhD student at the SAXO Institute, Department of Ethnology.

PhD students by gender and nationality

Of the 41 newly enrolled PhD students in 2024, 73% are female and 27% male.

The percentage of newly enrolled international PhD students during 2024 is more or less the same as the last two years. The majority of PhD students is still Danish.

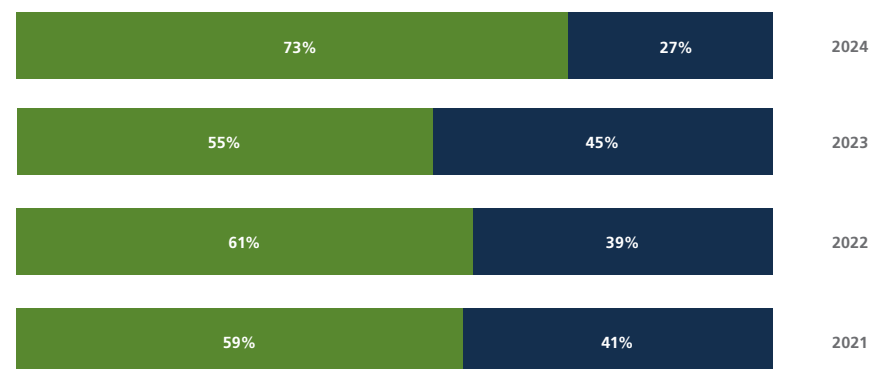


73%
female students
in 2024



27%
male students
in 2024

Gender



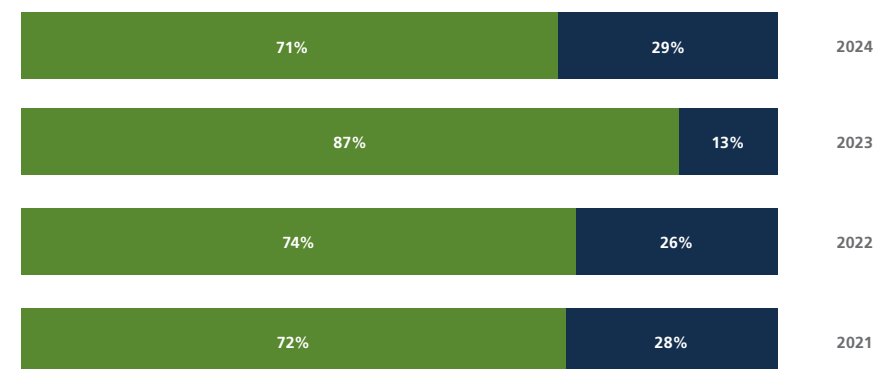
- Female
- Male



71%
Danish PhD
students in 2024

29%
International PhD
students in 2024

Nationality



- Danish PhD students
- International PhD students

PhD degrees awarded

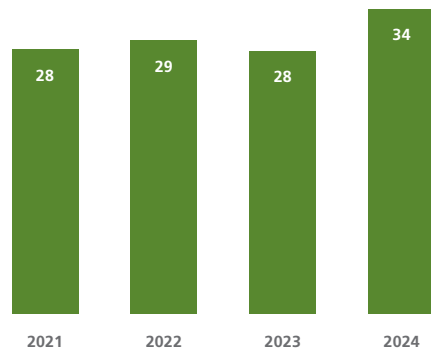
A total of 34 PhD degrees were awarded in 2024. This includes PhD degrees awarded without prior enrolment (also known as §15,2). A PhD degree is awarded once the PhD thesis is positively reviewed by an assessment committee and successfully defended at a public defence.



34

PhD degrees
awarded in 2024

PhD degrees awarded during the year



Duration of PhD study

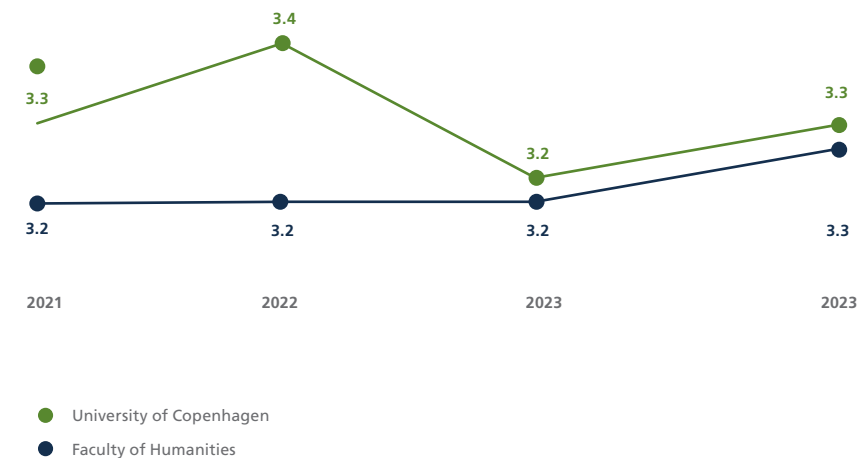
On average, a PhD takes 3,3 years to complete at the Faculty of Humanities. This length of time is equal to the average length of time at the University of Copenhagen. The average is calculated as the period between enrolment and submission of the thesis. Leave periods are excluded.



3.3 Years

Duration of PhD study
in 2024

Average duration of PhD study



Grammar and Agrammatism in Greenlandic

Mads Nielsen is conducting research at the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics as part of the larger project Grammar and Agrammatism in Greenlandic. His PhD project focuses on describing agrammatic aphasia in Greenlandic, a language impairment caused by stroke or brain injury. Specifically, the research examines how speakers with aphasia use morphology and syntax—how they apply word endings and structure sentences in Greenlandic. Most studies on agrammatic aphasia have been based on English, leading to assumptions that individuals with the condition struggle with verbs and word endings. However, given that Greenlandic grammar is radically different from English, these assumptions may not hold.

The English phrase ‘he accidentally breaks it’ becomes a single word in Greenlandic: aserortoorpara. This word combines aseror (‘break’) with endings -toor (‘accidentally’) and -para (indicating ‘he’ as the subject and ‘it’ as the object).

Mads Nielsen’s preliminary findings challenge established theories. Data shows that Greenlandic speakers with agrammatic aphasia use verbs even more frequently than those without aphasia, contrary to English-based expectations. Additionally, they do not exhibit the same difficulties with word endings, using as many as unaffected speakers, sometimes incorporating up to

six in a single word. This suggests that the role and prominence of grammatical elements across languages influence how aphasia manifests.

“In English, verbs require additional words to form complete sentences, whereas in Greenlandic, a single verb can convey an entire statement. The phrase ‘he accidentally breaks it’ requires four words in English but only one—aserortoorpara—in Greenlandic.”

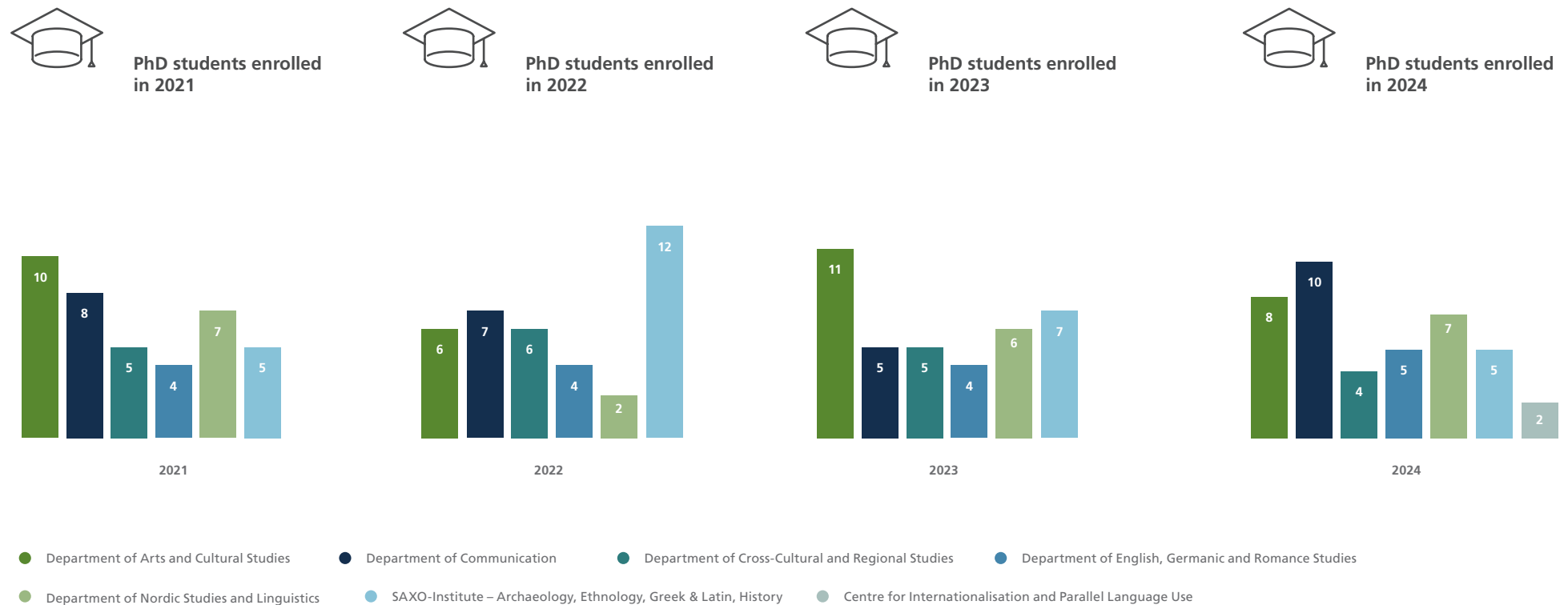
The project has both clinical and theoretical significance. Clinically, it can aid in identifying aphasia in Greenlandic-speaking patients, a crucial development as Greenland currently lacks diagnostic procedures for the condition. Theoretically, the findings call for a reevaluation of aphasia as a linguistic syndrome.. “Taking language diversity into account, we emphasize the need for a more nuanced understanding of aphasia as a response to the unique structures and communicative demands of different languages,” Mads points out.

Mads Nielsen, PhD student
at the Department of Nordic Studies
and Linguistics.



Newly enrolled PhD students by department in 2024

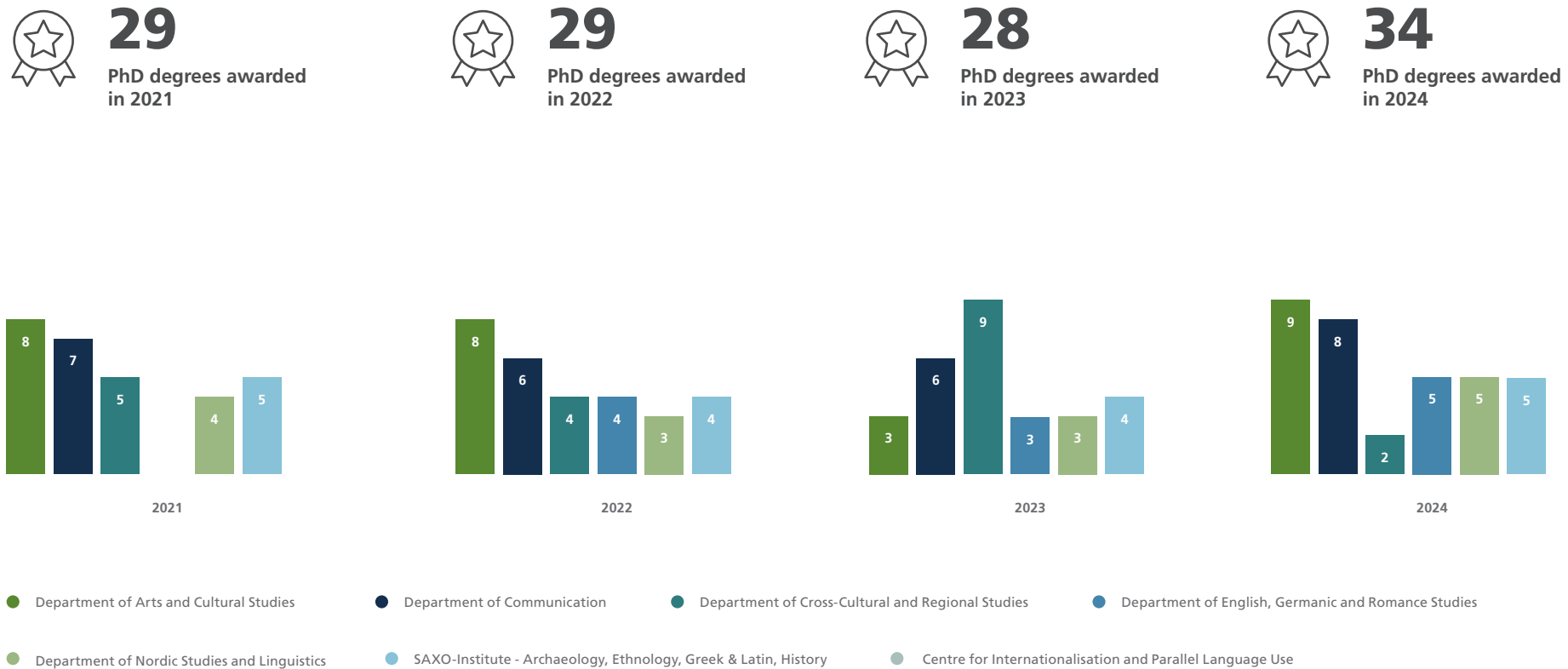
This figure shows the distribution of the 41 enrolled PhD students by department/centre at the Faculty of Humanities.





Number of PhD degrees awarded by department in 2024

This figure shows the distribution of the 34 PhD degrees awarded by the department/centre at the Faculty of Humanities.



Newly enrolled PhD students in 2024 - Department, project title and supervisor

Listed below are the PhD students newly enrolled in 2024, including the title of their PhD project and the name of their principal supervisor.

Centre for Internationalisation and Parallel Language Use (CIP)

Kasper Engholm Jelby

Artificial Intelligence and the Disciplinary Voice:
The Role of Generative Language Technology in the
Academic Literacy of Undergraduate Health-Science
Students

Supervisor: Janus Mortensen

Marella Therese Alejandro Tionson

Towards a New Model of Communicative Competence
in Multilingual Higher Education

Supervisor: Slobodanka Dimova

Department of Arts and Cultural Studies

Anna Ullman Møllegaard

En kritisk undersøgelse af folkemusikbevægelsen
i Danmark, 1969-1981

Supervisor: Mikkel Bolt Rasmussen

Esmee Dylan Colbourne

Intersecting Losses

Supervisor: Nanna Bonde Thylstrup

Fatma Bucak

Shared Disasters and the Sound of the Setting Sun:
An Operatic Performance to Reflect and Challenge
the Social and Political Discourse on Climate

Supervisor: Solveig Gade

Helen Whitney Werle

Black from the Dead

Supervisor: Cecilie Ullerup Schmidt

Maja Sofie Rasmussen

Keramiske udtryk i tiden

Supervisor: Maria Fabricius Hansen

Maja Sofie Rasmussen

Keramiske udtryk i tiden

Supervisor: Maria Fabricius Hansen

Sara Mering

Landskabet som litterært arkiv

Supervisor: Anne Fastrup

Sidsel Meiniche Hansen

Post-human Sex: A Study of the New Pornographic
Languages of Automated Sex and the Question of
Desire in Machine Enhanced Arousal

Supervisor: Rune Gade

Thea Møller Jensen

I den metamorfiske zone: En kunsthistorisk
undersøgelse af 1500-tallets naturkultur

Supervisor: Maria Fabricius Hansen

Department of Communication

Andreas Thustrup Pommer

Neural Population Dynamics:
The Landscape of Cognition

Supervisor: Thor Grünbaum

Astrid Elisabeth Jessen

Kulturpolitisk praksis i samtidens Danmark: Inddragelse
af kulturens aktører i udformningen af kulturpolitiske
tiltag

Supervisor: Nanna Kann-Rasmussen

Erinne Menard Paisley

Digitally Mediated 'Empowerment' for Women:
An Investigation through New Romantic Love Landscapes
of Location Based Dating Applications

Supervisor: Manuel Menke

Jelena Bundalovic

Nordic Feminist Enlightenment:
Early Modern Scandinavian Women Philosopher's
Quest for Happiness through Education

Supervisor: Sabrina Ebbesmeyer

Johan Wowern Hundrup

Dankness: The Masculinized Aesthetics and
Politics of Memes

Supervisor: Mette Mortensen

Karoline Krabbe

Vidnesbyrdets virkning – En undersøgelse af brugen af
vidnesbyrd i debatter om sundhed og reproduktiv
lighed og genrens potentiale til at inddrage nye
stemmer og perspektiver

Supervisor: Kristine Marie Berg

Kasper Møller Nielsen

Seeing Pink Elephants, Hearing Voices, and Feeling
Others: An Exploration of Alterations and Aberrations
of Presence

Supervisor: Mads Gram Henriksen

Laura Oppi

The Nature of Presence: Contents, Feelings,
and Relations of Acquaintance

Supervisor: Søren Overgaard

Maria Kjær Rosenbaum Rasmussen

Are Formal Models the Solution to the Theory Crisis?
Supervisor: Thor Grünbaum

Ninell Eva Maria Oldenburg

Bridging Minds and Models:
Advancing AI Interpretability

Supervisor: Anders Søgaard

Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies

Frederikke Bencke

Green Futures: Strategic Partnerships in the Anthro-
cene – "Denmark has the skills, India has the scale"

Supervisor: Ravinder Kaur

Meraj Sharifi

Digital Queer Culture in Iranian Society: Online Identi-
ties, Community, and Activism

Supervisor: Rasmus Christian Elling

Nanna Ellen Amer

Digital Hate Speech: Discursive Structures of Antisemitism and Islamophobia

Supervisor: Birgitte Schepelern Johansen

Susrita Das

Fandom in the (Korean) Café: Negotiating Intersections between Consumption and Socialisation Practices of Hallyu Fans in India

Supervisor: Barbara Wall

Department of English, Germanic and Romance studies**Alexandre Marie Hjorth Gernigon**

Ny selvstændighedsbølge i Sahel: et endeligt opgør med La Françafrique?

Supervisor: Jørn Boisen

Anita Martos Harres

Migration, Forced Labor, and Identities: Practices and Policies on Forced Labor in Brazil and Denmark from the Workers' Perspectives

Supervisor: Georg Walter Wink

Astrid Roesen Abildgaard

Women's Visions of an Ideal Relationship with Nature: Literary Utopias by Female American Writers, 1836-1919

Supervisor: Robert William Rix

Carmen Vind Jensen

The Relationship between Humans and Animals in Hans Henny Jahnn's Authorship

Supervisor: Christian Benne

Nikolaj Bjerggaard Olesen

'Nations' in Flux: A History of Identity and Language in Schleswig, 1814-1864

Supervisor: Anna Lena Sandberg

Department of Nordic studies and linguistics**Birgitte Dahlerup Thunbo**

Undersøgelse af bredde- og dybdeordforrådet hos danske børn med DLD: Udvikling af måleredskab, karakteristik af ordforrådet samt sammenhæng til senere lytteforståelse

Supervisor: Rikke Vang Christensen

Christophe Zerakitsky Vies

Hearing-impaired Listeners' Processing of Morpho-phonetic Acoustic Detail

Supervisor: Nicolai Pharao

Katrine Krogh Pedersen

Ideologisk grooming: ansvarets økologi mellem ekstreme influencers, platforme og danske børn

Supervisor: Line Nybro Petersen

Kirstine Nielsen Degn

Friendships in Crisis: A Study of Friendships in Danish Literature from the 19th and 21st Centuries

Supervisor: Jens Bjerring-Hansen

Maria Buck Jensen

Assessment of the Relationship between Disability and Perceived Handicap among Dyslexic Adults

Supervisor: Carsten Elbro

Tanushree Ghosh

Littoral Pasts and Futures: The Representation of Sea Level Rise, Oceanic Catastrophes and Climate Change in Select Climate Fiction

Supervisor: Søren Frank

Tore Røvs Kristoffersen

Indoeuropæisk økonomi

Supervisor: Thomas Kristoffer Olander

SAXO-Institute – Archaeology, Ethnology, Greek & Latin, History**Elisabeth Louise B Andersen**

Moving Faith – Transnational and Social Mobility within Northern European Radical Pietism

Supervisor: Juliane Engelhardt

Emma Froma Pretzmann Feil

Code and Conspiracy: Antisemitism in Denmark After 1945

Supervisor: Sofie Bak

Joos Melander

Between Oikos and Ethnos: Social Organization and Transformations in Aitolia and Achaia during the Late Bronze age and Early Iron Age

Supervisor: Kristina Winther-Jacobsen

Rune Korgaard

The European Energy Association and The Making of Pro-Nuclear Environmentalism, 1977-86

Supervisor: Niklas Olsen

Valentina Orru

Time Travelling to Fantastic Lands

Supervisor: David Kristian Bloch

PhD degrees awarded in 2024 - Department, project title and supervisor

Listed below are those awarded a PhD degree in 2024, including the title of their PhD thesis and the name of their principal supervisor.

Department of Arts and Cultural Studies

Caroline Jayne Spooner (22-11-2024)

Deadtime: A Hypothesis of Resistance

Supervisor: Kristin Eva Albrechtsen Haahr Veel

Line Ellegaard (18-01-2024)

Organising, Exhibiting and Curating (in) Solidarity:

'Kvindeudstillingen', 1975, 'Art contre/against

Apartheid' 1983-1984, and 'Rethinking Nordic

Colonialism' 2006

Supervisor: Rune Gade

Marie Finsten Jensen (14-05-2024)

I kritisk forening? Kunstforeningen GL. STRANDs

historie

Supervisor: Rune Gade

Nanna Debois Buhl (12-03-2024)

Picture the Sky: Cosmic Code, Images, and Imaginaries

Supervisor: Rune Gade

Niels Krarup-Leth Nykrog (15-07-2024)

Between Calvary and Parnassus: A Literary History

of the Early Modern Martyr Drama

Supervisor: Christian Dahl

Semahat Ece Elbeyi (05-04-2024)

Reconfigurations of Human-AI Companionship:

A Multiperspective Approach to the Confluence of

Technoscience, Culture and Care

Supervisor: Gunhild Ravn Borggreen

Seyed-Arshia Eghbali (01-10-2024)

The Art of Temporary Living: 28 Collected Rooms

Supervisor: Henrik Reeh

Shuang Fei (20-03-2024)

Art Tactics Transforming Public Spaces in Commercial

Environments: A Comparative Study in China and

Denmark

Supervisor: Ulrik Ekman

Ziyu Yuan (22-11-2024)

Chinese Shopfronts in European Urban Contexts:

Spatial Elements and Human Experience

Supervisor: Henrik Reeh

Department of Communication

Anders Grønlund (04-01-2024)

Greenlandic Frames: Screen Production in and

about Greenland

Supervisor: Eva Novrup Redvall

Andrea Veggerby Lind (03-01-2024)

Beyond Climate Skepticism: An Exploration of Climate

Attitudes and Political Orientation in Denmark

Supervisor: Klemens Kappel

Anne-Sophie Sørup Wandall (29-01-2024)

Contested Identities: Challenging Discourses on Female

Intellectuality

Supervisor: Sabrina Ebbersmeyer

Helene Borregaard Stephensen (27-02-2024)

Madness and its Double

Supervisor: Søren Overgaard

Sne Scott Hansen (19-11-2024)

Wearable Communication: Exploring Communicative

Agency with Wearable Digital Tracking Technologies

for Personalized Decision-support in People's Everyday

Lives

Supervisor: Stine Lomborg

Turið Nolsøe (03-01-2024)

Autonomy's Double Bind: The rhetorical Intersection of

Geopolitics and Biopolitics in Danish Media Coverage

of Faroese Abortion Rights

Supervisor: Christine Isager

Victor Lange Nielsen (05-04-2024)

Metacognition in Attention Control and Skilled

Action—Mindfulness and Flow

Supervisor: Thor Grünbaum

Victoria Andelsman Alvarez (10-07-2024)

"At Arm's Length": Thinking with Care about Digital

Parenting in Denmark

Supervisor: Stine Lomborg

Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies

Bjarke Stanley Nielsen (22-10-2024)

Global Awareness and the Theosophical Society

1875-1950: Conceptualising Universal Brotherhood

and its Universal History

Supervisor: Tim Rudbøg

Katrine Overgaard Stevnhøj (25-11-2024)

Reclaiming Homelands: Counter-Hegemonic Identity

Narratives of Belarusian and Russian Political Exiles

Supervisor: Mikhail Suslov

Department of English, Germanic and Romance studies

Helle Egendal (05-12-2024)

Mod en flersproget autofiktion: Flersprogethedens

funktion i udvalgte fiktionsværker i dansk, grønlandsk,

svensk og tysk transkulturel litteratur

Supervisor: Anna Lena Sandberg

Katrine Wonge Lohmann (14-11-2024)

The Domestic Gothic: Minerva Fiction as Nationalist

Literature, 1784-1820

Supervisor: Robert William Rix

Kirsten Elizabeth Ogilby (20-11-2024)

Early Planted and Purely Reformed: Old English

Religious Medievalism in the Long Eighteenth Century

Supervisor: Lene Østermark-Johansen

Martin Fog Arndal (24-04-2024)

Touches of Nature: Explorations of Distant Touch
in German and British Romanticism

Supervisor: Christian Benne

Natascha Drachmann (29-01-2024)

Sproglig opmærksomhed via en flersprogetheds-
didaktik – Et læreplans- og multicasestudie på tværs
af sprogfag og klassetrin i grundskolen

Supervisor: Petra Gilliyar Daryai Hansen

Department of Nordic studies and linguistics

Alexander Lindahl Conroy (17-12-2024)

Romaner og sprogmodeller: Kvantitative studier af
modernitetsprocesser i dansk og norsk litteratur
1870-1899

Supervisor: Jens Bjerring-Hansen

Antje Maria Schöps (22-11-2024)

Does Language Matter for Health Outcomes in
Behavior Change Interventions? An Investigation of
Counseling Interactions in a Behavior Change
Intervention for Women at Risk of Developing
Gestational Diabetes

Supervisor: Lian Malai Madsen

Christian Steentofte Andersen (15-04-2024)

Københavns herskabeliggørelse: Gentrificeringsfortæl-
linger i dansk samtidslitteratur

Supervisor: Torben Jelsbak

Katrine Falcon Søby (24-01-2024)

My Mistake! Production and Perception of Grammar
Anomalies

Supervisor: Line Burholt Kristensen

Louise Lüchow (05-11-2024)

Body, Objects, and Perception: Five Studies of Visually
Impaired People's Use of Technology

Supervisor: Brian Lystgaard Due

SAXO-Institute – Archaeology, Ethnology, Greek & Latin, History

Anne Irène Jacob Kwaspen (22-10-2024)

Expressions through Style: The Significance of
Technique and Form in Early Medieval Egyptian Tunics

Supervisor: Eva Andersson Strand

Katrine Rønsig Larsen (20-11-2024)

Unveiling the Emotions of Family Violence:
A Historical Analysis

Supervisor: Karen Asta Arnfred Vallgård

Louise Villefrance Perner (07-02-2024)

Beyond the Grave: Danish Causes of Death 1829-1930

Supervisor: Anne Løkke

Mads Villefrance Perner (02-10-2024)

Inequalities in Early Life Mortality: Exploring Sex,
Social Class and Place as Risk Factors of Death in
Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Denmark

Supervisor: Jan Pedersen

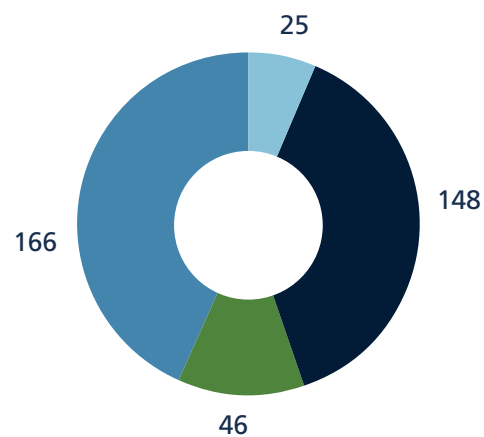
Mikkel Johansen Nørtoft (29-05-2024)

Ranks to Riches, Bust to Posh: Modelling Wealth
and Inequality in the Czech Corded Ware culture

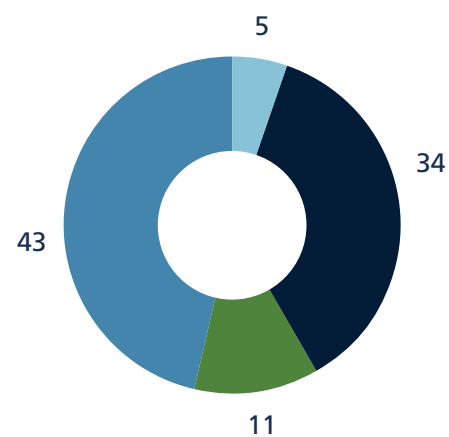
Supervisor: Rune Iversen

Key PhD statistics for the Faculties of Humanities, Law, Social Sciences, and Theology

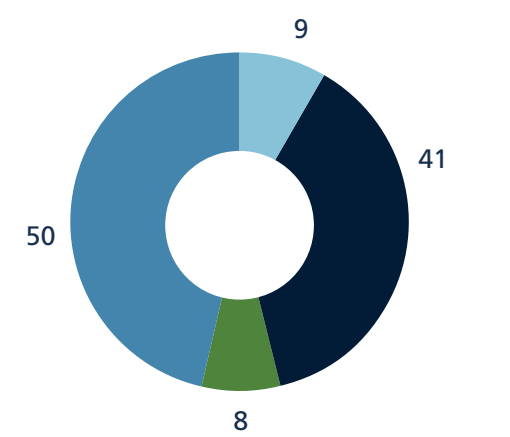
These figures provide a comparison across key numbers between the Faculties of Humanities, Law, Social Sciences, and Theology at the University of Copenhagen (total number of enrolled PhD students, PhD degrees awarded in 2024, new enrolment 2024).



Total number of enrolled PhD students
at the end of the year



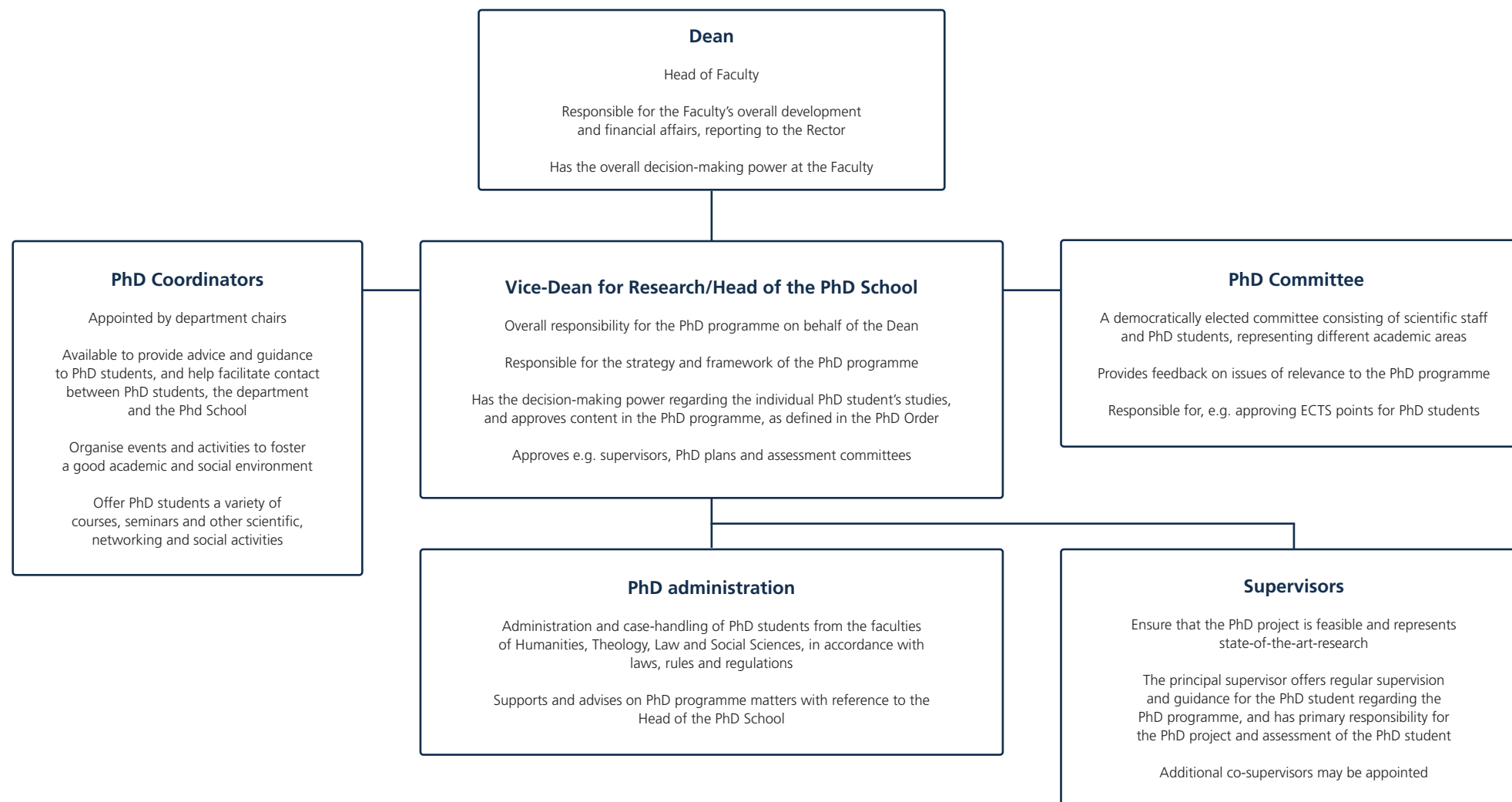
PhD degrees awarded during the year



PhD students newly enrolled during the year

● Faculty of Humanities ● Faculty of Law ● Faculty of Social Sciences ● Faculty of Theology

Faculty of Humanities – Organisation of the PhD School





PHD ADMINISTRATION
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
NIELS BOHR BYGNINGEN (NBB)
JAGTVEJ 128, 4. SAL
2200 KØBENHAVN N
TEL: +45 35 32 40 04
E-MAIL: PHD@HRSC.KU.DK