

AN INTEGRATED GRADUATE SCHOOL BASED ON DIVERSE GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

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The Aarhus Graduate School of Health Sciences is based on a tradition of providing quality postgraduate courses started in the 1970s. The School has currently almost 500 PhD students enrolled, with over 150 being enrolled each year. The Graduate School is part of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and is divided into eleven graduate programmes. The clinical faculty members have joint appointments in the Aarhus University Hospital. The Faculty has a total of about 400 professors and associate professors.

The Aarhus Graduate School of Health Sciences provides PhD training in all aspects of health sciences and covers the whole range of health sciences research, from basic research to the clinic. The integrated approach ensures that the overall aim of improving patient health care is obtained in a multidisciplinary manner without fragmentation of the research training process.

The Graduate School is directed by a Head and a co-Head of PhD studies who are responsible to the Dean of the Faculty. The Heads work with the PhD administrator and the staff of the PhD office. The Heads follow the progress of each individual PhD student through half-yearly reports. The Graduate School holds about 80 courses each year, of which some are core courses taken by all PhD students, while the majority of courses are elective taken according to the needs of the particular PhD student.

Half the PhD students have a medical master's degree, the remainder having backgrounds in e.g. natural sciences, dentistry, nursing, psychology, engineering, and political sciences. About 10% of the students have an academic degree from another country than Denmark. The PhD stipends are normally at the level of a junior academic salary. Financial support is in part through Faculty grants, but most PhD projects have external funding.