Principles for External Ph.D. Students at the Department of Computer Science

Economy and Supervision

1. The department does not charge a tuition fee.
2. On equal terms with other Ph.D. students, the following are provided:
    a. Supervision equivalent to 120 hours per year
    b. Travel funds (DKK 55,000). No exemptions are given.
    c. Equipment and workspace.
3. The supervisor is not compensated with hours for supervision.
4. The payment is DKK 60,000* per year to cover the department's expenses, as long as the Ph.D. student is affiliated with the department.
    a. Internally, the supervisor can pay from the project or discretionary funds.
    b. Externally – for example, self-payment – an additional 25% overhead is applied (since the department pays 30-32% in contributions).
    c. Continued payment is a prerequisite for continued enrollment.

* If the Ph.D. student is not at AAU – not even as a guest – the payment is reduced to DKK 40,000 per year.

Assessment, Supervision, Cap, and Evaluation

1. Before an agreement is made, a meeting must be held with the external Ph.D. candidate, supervisor, department head, and possibly the Ph.D. program leader to clarify and agree on specific conditions, such as minimum presence. Based on the meeting, an agreement document must be prepared.
2. A 'long assessment' must be prepared for the Ph.D. candidate upon enrollment, on equal terms with other Ph.D. students.
3. Regardless of whether the international Ph.D. student is employed, they must have a residence and work permit if they come from a non-Schengen or non-EU country.
4. A risk assessment must be conducted for Ph.D. candidates from China, Russia, and others.
5. The supervisor must ensure that the Ph.D. candidate is proficient in written and spoken English, so they can participate in the department's activities.
6. The supervisor must be employed at the associate professor or professor level (as with other Ph.D. students).
7. 'Shadow supervision' (where one person is the formal supervisor while another provides the actual supervision) is not acceptable.

8. The Ph.D. student must always be enrolled in The Technical Doctoral School of IT and Design and follow the regulations set by the Doctoral School.
9. If deemed necessary by the department, a cap on the number of Ph.D. students under this scheme will be established.
10. The scheme will be evaluated annually on an ongoing basis.

Note regarding possible employment

It will be determined on an individual basis whether the Ph.D. student can be employed for teaching tasks and, if so, which tasks. This can help the Ph.D. student financially and contribute to the department's teaching capacity. The finances related to possible employment are solely for the Ph.D. student.

In the event of possible employment of an external Ph.D. student, a specific agreement must be written. The agreement must be archived as documentation.

The principles stated above take effect as of July 2, 2024, and replace previous principles. The principles are decided by department head Peter Axel Nielsen based on discussions in the management.