



Guidelines for the Research Honours
Programme
Graduate School of Health,
Aarhus University

2017

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1. Introduction

A Research Honours Programme offers all Master's degree students from the Faculty of Health, Aarhus University a new way in to research.

The purpose of the programme is to prepare talented potential young researchers for a career within health science, through interdisciplinary activities.

[The Ministerial Order on talent development](#) forms the basis for the Research Honours Programme. This allow the university to offer extracurricular activities beyond the standard ECTS credits.

Talent development programmes are extracurricular activities at a very high level and with high demands on the student's competences and performance.

The Faculty Management has therefore approved the Research Honours Programme as a talent development programme for all students at the Faculty of Health.

During the two years of the Research Honours Programme, the student will gain broad insight into research, and will be challenged, both professionally and personally.

The programme runs concurrent with the student's ordinary study, and therefore gives the student a unique career advantage, as well as a graduation with distinction.

2. Outcome

A student who complete the Research Honours Programme will gain great experience with research and develop a strong professional network with researchers, both nationally and internationally.

A graduation with distinction is an acknowledged recognition of the extracurricular activities, which will give the student great advantages in their future career.

3. Requirements

To become a part of the Research Honours Programme, the student must be highly motivated, professionally competent and eager to learn and achieve results. The student must have a genuine interest in health science and be willing to challenge him/herself. Furthermore, good English language skills are required.

The student must have obtained a Bachelor's or Professional Bachelor's degree and be enrolled in a Master's degree programme at the Faculty of Health, Aarhus University and must have at least two years left of the degree programme.

For medical students who have started their Master's in the winter, it is possible to apply after having completed the first semester, before starting 2nd semester.

The student is required to follow the ordinary study according to the study plan, and pass all exams timely.

The Research Honours Programme is an extracurricular activity, and the student is expected to spend some evenings, weekends and one/two weeks during the summer on the activities of programme, as well as the self-study and the individual project.

4. Application

Calls for application for enrolment are announced once a year with deadline end-August.

The [open call](#) provides an application form, which must be completed by the student.

The application must include basic information about the candidate, a motivational statement describing the applicant's motivation for applying, as well as activities, experiences and results relevant to the programme. Furthermore, the applicant's CV and diploma or transcript of records must be included. The requirements are described in the [application guide](#). All documents must be in English, combined into one pdf-file and submitted by email to graduateschoolhealth@au.dk before deadline.

The applications will be assessed by the Coordination Committee for the Honours Programme based on the student's results, motivation and potential.

Please see the [application guide](#) for more information about the application and the mandatory documents.

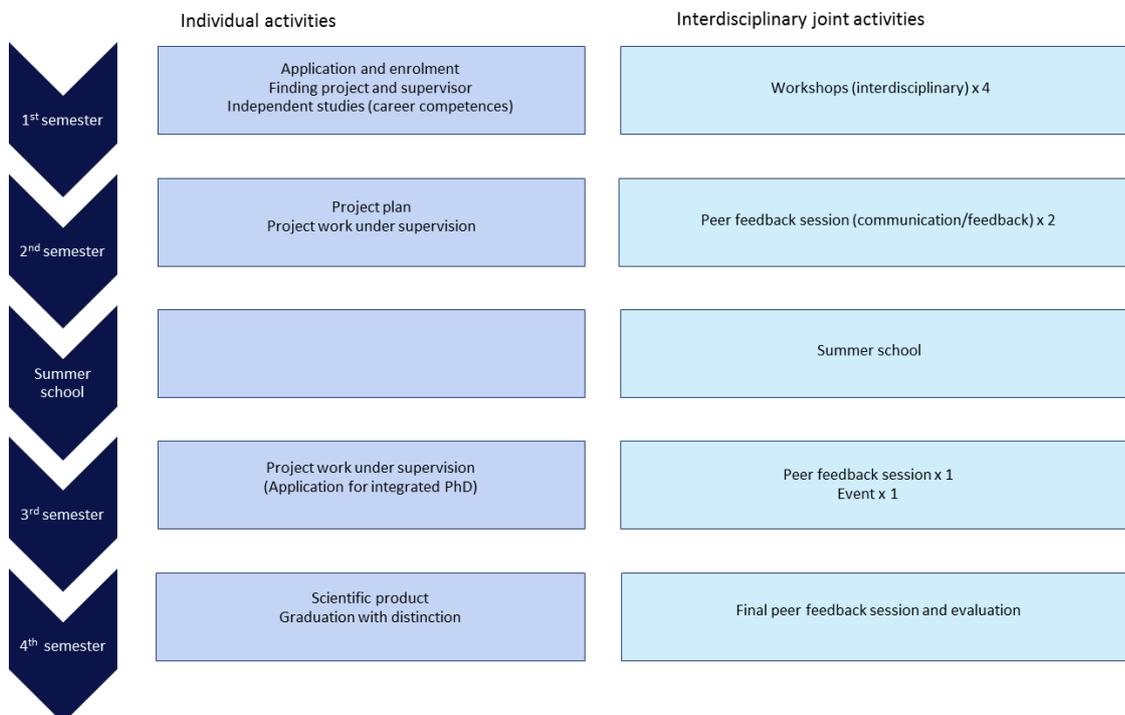
If there are more qualified applicants than available positions in the programme, interviews will be held as part of the application process.

Applicants will get a response by the end of September, and will thereby be able to start the programme by 1 October.

5. Content and activities

The Research Honours Programme consists of several different interdisciplinary activities, at a high academic level.

The activities in the programme equal 30 ECTS credits. All activities are placed outside of the ordinary study schedule.



Workshops

During the first semester, the programme focuses on developing the student's interdisciplinary competences. This is done through four case-based workshops, where the student is engaged and challenged to think differently and work together with peers across disciplines. The workshops encourages reflection and independent thinking.

The workshops are built around scientific health issues, which can only be solved with input and participation from different disciplines. Through active participation from the student, aspects and methods are illustrated.

The purpose of the workshops is to:

- Introduce the student to research
- Train the student in working across disciplines
- Create a platform for scientific and innovative collaboration across fields of study
- Create a forum where the student can develop and meet like-minded students from other areas
- Contribute to building an innovative and interdisciplinary culture

Four workshops will be held during the 1st semester. The workshops demand a high level of student participation and preparation. Each workshop corresponds to 1 ECTS credit, and will be held evenings and/or weekends from October to January.

Self-study

It is essential that young potential researchers are able to relate to their own development and to achieve non-academic career competences, such as research dissemination, budgeting and project design.

At the start of the Research Honours Programme, the student will receive a compendium with articles and literature, which will provide the students with knowledge regarding general competences. The student is expected to independently study the compendium and other relevant information and articles during the programme.

Peer feedback sessions

During the Research Honours Programme, all students meet three/four times for peer feedback sessions. The sessions focus on personal and intellectual competences. The student presents his/her individual projects, including the goals, progression and challenges. The sessions allows the student to present their work to the other students in the programme, and thereby discuss the projects and get inspiration from each other.

During the peer feedback sessions, the student is trained in presentation and feedback.

Summer school

Between the 2nd and 3rd semester, a summer school will be held. The summer school will focus on developing the student's academic and professional competences.

The summer school is also open for other students, both nationally and internationally.

The summer school corresponds to 2.5 ECTS credits, which equals one week of full time study. Content and form of the summer school will vary from year to year, and will be announced in June.

Independent project under supervision

The Research Honours Programme also focuses on developing the student's professional and career competences. One of the central elements of the programme is therefore an independent project under supervision.

The student must select the topic and identify a relevant issue, as well as find a main supervisor and a co-supervisor among the scientific staff at the Faculty of Health, Aarhus University.

The main supervisor must have a PhD degree and be employed at Health. Co-supervisor must be at least a PhD student, must be from a different department than the main supervisor, and can be employed at a faculty other than Health

At the beginning of the second semester, the student must hand in a project plan, including goals for progression and activities. The student must compose the plan, based on input from the supervisor(s).

The scope of the individual project is to develop the student's ability to:

- Assess needs and usefulness
- Formulate goals and subsidiary goals
- Plan and organise project work
- Include relevant existing knowledge
- Make use of relevant methods for problem solving
- Communicate results and achieved knowledge

The project plan is assessed by the Coordination Committee for the Honours Programme and must be approved in order for the student to continue in the programme.

The independent project is concluded with a scientific product. This could be an article, an application for funding, a project description, poster or the like.

The independent project cannot replace the Master's thesis.

Event

As part of the Research Honours Programme, the student must plan and hold an event for their fellow students. The event can be academic or social, but must target fellow students. The event can be planned individually, or together with other students. The aim is to develop the student's professional and career competences through network.

After the event, a short description (max. 1 page) must be send to the Coordination Committee for the Honours Programme.

6. Progression and absence

Students enrolled in the Research Honours Programme are expected to follow all activities in both their ordinary study and in the programme concurrently. Absence, lacking participation, failure to hand in assignments or delays in the ordinary study will lead to dismissal from the programme.

In case of absence due to illness or for other reasons, the student must ensure to obtain the missing ECTS credits, e.g. by attending the activity at a later point, or by attending a substituting activity. Other activities can only be approved by the Coordination Committee for the Honours Programme. The student must apply for an exemption by sending an application to the Graduate School of Health.

7. Graduation with distinction

Students who complete a Research Honours Programme will graduate with distinction, and get a recognition on their Master's degree diploma.

8. Application for PhD

The Research Honours Programme can be an introduction to the PhD Programme, and helps the student to clarify and identify a possible PhD project.

A student who has completed the Research Honours Programme will be highly qualified to apply for a PhD.

It is also possible to apply for an integrated PhD, while being enrolled in the programme.

Workshops and courses attended during the Research Honours Programme will not be credited in a future PhD programme.