

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 PHD SCHOOL AT THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY



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PHOTOS

Page 1, 3, 5, 16: Martin Bertelsen;
Page 7, 8, 11, 15: Rasmus Degnbol;
Page 10: Amanda Wendel Malm

Introduction

It is our pleasure to introduce the 2023 annual report of the PhD School at the Faculty of Theology. The PhD School forms an integral and very important part of the overall academic life at the Faculty of Theology. We embrace and support upcoming scholars who with their original ideas and approaches enrich the thriving research environment at the faculty. We aim to comprehensively train the PhD students for their future careers, inside as well as outside of academia, including the need to meet various societal challenges.

The faculty has strong ties to other research institutions both nationally and internationally which is also reflected in the diversity of our staff. Similarly, we aim to attract PhD students both internally from our own faculty, but also from all over the world, not the least through our research centers.

In this report you will find selected PhD statistics for 2023, when five new PhD students were enrolled while two were awarded the PhD degree. With a total number of 23 PhD students in 2023, the faculty's PhD school is the smallest at UCPH, representing approximately 1:60 of the total PhD student population. The school collaborates closely with the PhD schools at the Faculty of Humanities, the Faculty of Law, and the Faculty of Social

Sciences. Our PhD students work on projects that cover all research areas within the faculty's four sections: Biblical Studies (including Qur'anic and Islamic studies), Church History, Systematic Theology, and Centre of African Studies. In this way, all PhD students contribute greatly to the scholarly development of the faculty. This report illustrates the broad range of research by showcasing two projects.

We want to express our gratitude to all PhD students and their supervisors, as well as to the PhD coordinators and the members of the PhD committee for their dedicated efforts and commitment in strengthening the faculty's graduate programme and for, in 2023, making a special effort to improve the cohesion of the PhD school and to enhance the PhD students' well-being.

Carsten Selch Jensen
Dean

Heike Omerzu
Head of PhD School

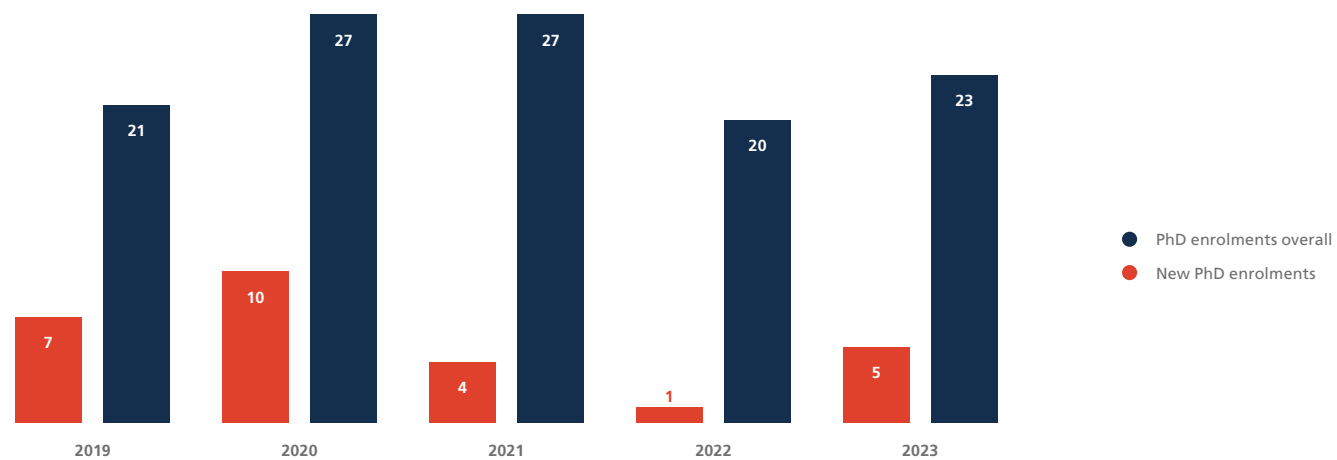
March 2024



PhD students enrolled

By 31 December 2023, the PhD school of Faculty of Theology had a total of 23 enrolled PhD students. The number includes PhD students on leave. A total of 5 new PhD students were enrolled in 2023.

 **5**
new PhD students
were enrolled in 2023.



Lucie Perez

What is the title of your PhD project?

Artificial Intelligence and the Texts of the Bible: A Computational Study of Motion Verb Complements

What is your PhD project about?

My project is, in a sense, two-fold. First, I explore the construction of motion verb complements in Biblical Hebrew, focusing on how these vary and the factors (textual, syntactic, semantic) influencing these variations. Although these complements have been studied in Biblical Hebrew, many textual sources, such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, have not yet been used in large-scale studies. I plan to expand the scope of the investigation by leveraging digital databases for a comprehensive analysis. The second facet of my project involves a methodological approach centred around the use of Artificial Intelligence. While I utilise existing tools for data gathering and analysis, the specific requirements of my research necessitate the development of new tools as well.

Why did you choose this topic?

Motion verb complements are an intriguing subject. They have been investigated in Linguistics for decades and of particular interest in Biblical Hebrew since at least the 1970s. While motion is a complex concept, motion

verbs are commonplace in our daily language, used not only to describe physical movements but also metaphorically (as in “You’ve gone too far this time!”). A deeper understanding of motion can enhance our comprehension of biblical writers and scribes. Regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence, I believe it is crucial for scholars to grasp these tools. I am keen to understand and utilise them, convinced of their pivotal role in the future of research.


What do you hope to achieve with your PhD project?

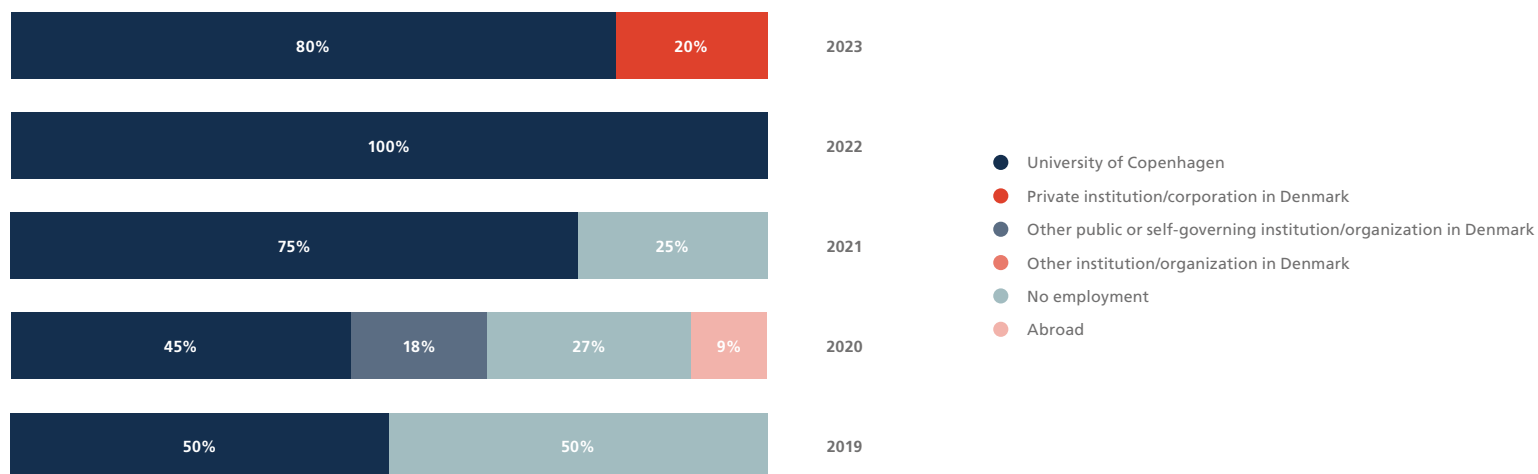
I aim to uncover new aspects of Hebrew language history and biblical text transmission by studying motion verbs. The methodological approach, employing cutting-edge digital tools, serves important objectives in its own right. It not only addresses complex subjects but also showcases the value of AI in biblical scholarship. While digital tools have been employed in Biblical Studies for decades, especially in the study of biblical languages, their adoption among the broader biblical scholarly community remains limited. I also want to show fellow researchers, who may be apprehensive about new technologies, that one does not need to be a professional data scientist to learn and effectively use artificial intelligence in conducting rigorous data-driven research.



PhD students enrolled by place of employment

This figure shows the distribution by place of employment in six overall categories:
University of Copenhagen, private institution/corporation in Denmark, other public or self-governing institution/organization in Denmark, other institution/organization in Denmark, no employment and abroad.

 **80%**
enrolled PhD students employed at
University of Copenhagen in 2023

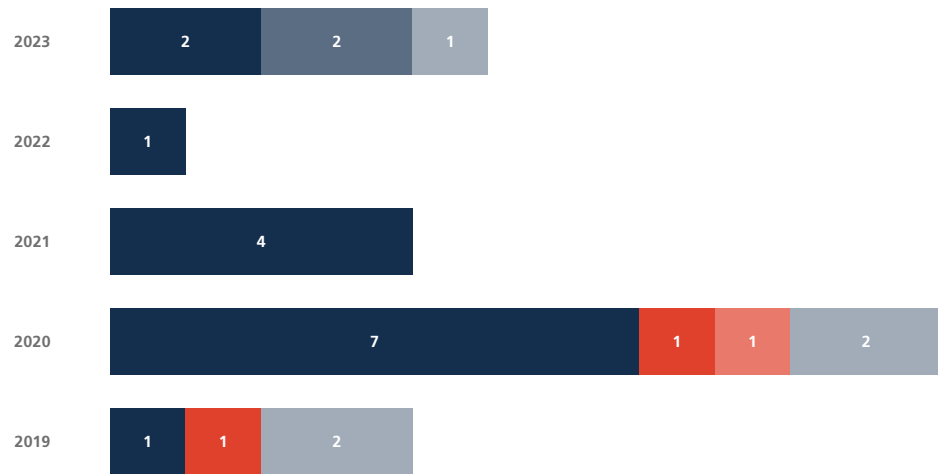


PhD enrolments by funding

This figure shows the distribution of PhD funding in five overall categories: UCPH funding and co-financing, Danish public funding, Danish private funding, International funding, Self-financed and Private and other means.

2
 newly enrolled PhD students by UCPH
 own funding and co-funding in 2023

3
 externally funded new PhD
 students enrolled in 2023



- UCPH own funding and co-financing
- Danish public
- Danish private
- International funds
- Private and other means

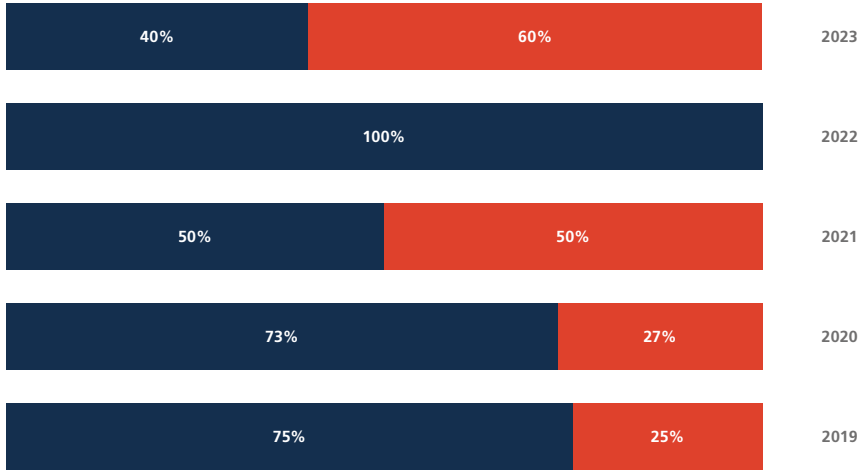




Enrolled PhD students by qualifying degree

Most newly enrolled PhD students held a qualifying degree from an external institution.

 **40%**
of the newly enrolled PhD students held a qualifying degree from the University of Copenhagen in 2023.



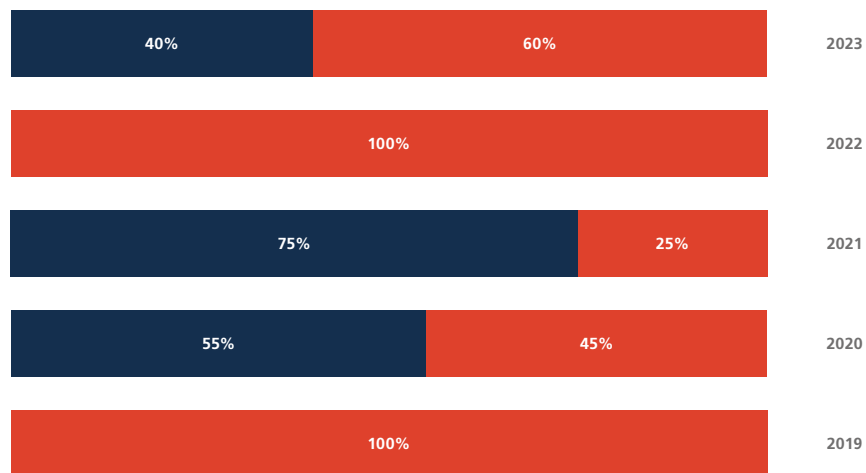
● University of Copenhagen ● External

PhD students by gender and nationality

The gender distribution of the 5 new PhD students enrolled in 2023 is 40 % female and 60 % male. This is almost identical to the average distribution of the PhD students enrolled during the past five years which is 44% female and 56% male. The number of international PhD students is increasing, with 2023 being the first year where the number of international PhD students enrolled surpassed the number of Danish PhD students enrolled. The majority of PhD students at the faculty of Theology are still Danish.

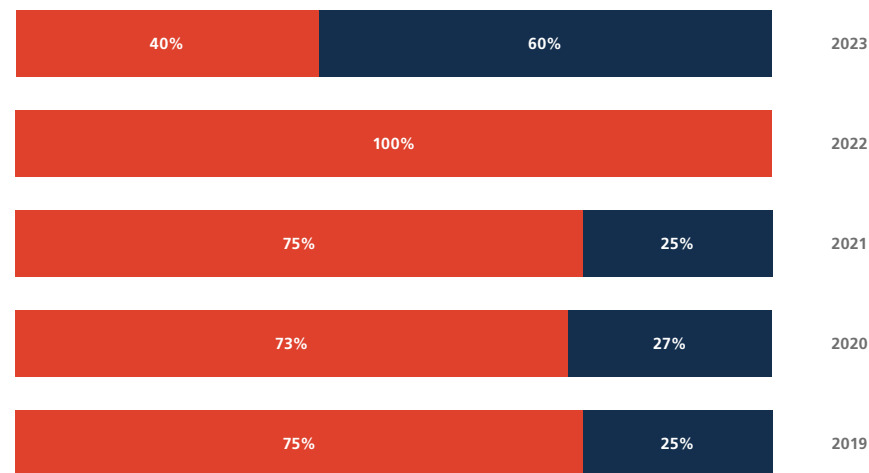


Gender



- Female
- Male

Nationality



- Danish PhD students
- International PhD students

Amanda Wendel Malm

What is the title of your PhD project?

Certifications of Citizenship: Tracing travelling 'global' policy models of legal identity and their encounters in Ghana and Uganda

What is your PhD project about?

My research explores questions concerning the formation, process, mobility, and local encounters of policies specifically related to legal identity, identification document, civil registration and citizenship. Within this, I study dynamics of policy processes and practices, focused on different types of identification forms and documents, both within multilateral organisations, but also their articulation within national governments in Africa – specifically in Ghana and Uganda. I study these three cases individually within the bigger focus of legal identity, to understand the politics, relations, and political economy of the policy processes at each site which constitutes the case studies own stories and realities.

Why did you choose this topic?

There are several reasons why I approached the topic of my research. However, the main overarching reason can be summarised into that I was intrigued to understand how the topic of legal identity, together with an

approach of policy practices, processes and mobility, facilitates an understanding of different forms of identification and registration in relation to citizenship, state building, and governing and how these are intertwined and how they influence each other. Furthermore, I was interested in how this unfolded in different settings, which is why I approach the topic by studying it both at an international level in selected multilateral organisations and on country level in Ghana and Uganda.

What do you hope to achieve with your PhD project?

I hope that my PhD research will contribute with insights into how the policy environment and the content of legal identity are changing and evolving, and how new technology, economic and political interests and priorities influence this development and how that in turn influences both policy processes, spaces, and practices within multilateral organisations and countries. Within this, an important aspect is to understand these changes from a critical perspective to comprehend the implications they have on both multilateral organisations, countries, and most importantly, citizens.'



PhD degrees awarded

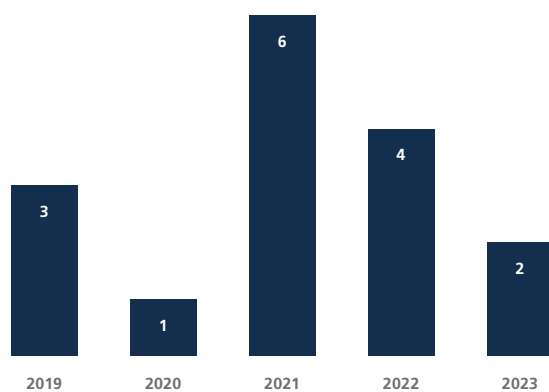
A total of 2 PhD degrees were awarded in 2023. The numbers include PhD degrees awarded without prior enrolment (also known as §15,2). The PhD degree is awarded by the university when the PhD thesis is positively reviewed by an assessment committee and afterwards successfully defended at a public defence.



2

PhD degrees
awarded in 2023

Number of PhD degrees awarded during the year,
including previous years for comparison



PhD students enrolled in 2023

The list below contains the names of the PhD students enrolled in 2023, the title of the PhD projects and the names of the principal supervisors.

Amanda Marie Platek

Tell Me What To Do

Supervisor: René Rosfort

Evan Isak Levine

Gyaros and the Archaeology of Island Incarceration

Supervisor: Matthew David Larsen

Lucie Perez

A Quantitative Approach to Motion Verb Complements
in Masoretic and Qumran Hebrew

Supervisor: Martin Gustaf Ehrensvärd

Steen Hjul Lybke

Scandinavian ecotheology in an international perspective

Supervisor: Niels Henrik Gregersen

Theis Schønning Johansen

Scriptura, fides et experientia - om erfaringen af Guds Ord
hos Erasmus af Rotterdam og Martin Luther i viljesstriden

Supervisor: Anna Vind

PhD degrees awarded in 2023

The list below contains the names of those who have been awarded a PhD degree in 2023, the title of the PhD thesis and the name of the principal supervisor.

Bastian Felter Vaucanson

La conversation éternelle. L'intimité spirituelle dans la correspondance Guyon-Fénelon

Date of degree awarded: 13.01.2023

Supervisor: Mette Birkedal Bruun

Søren Frank Jensen

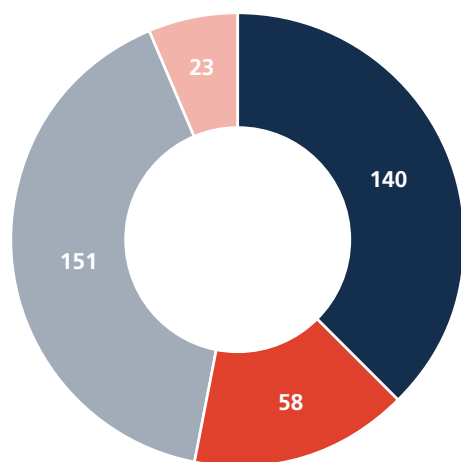
Nikolaus Selnecker's Psalterbuch, 1563–1623. Addressing the Public – Voicing the Private

Date of degree awarded: 07.11.2023

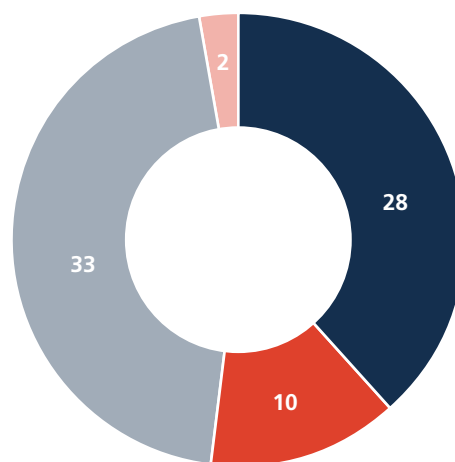
Supervisor: Mette Birkedal Bruun

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

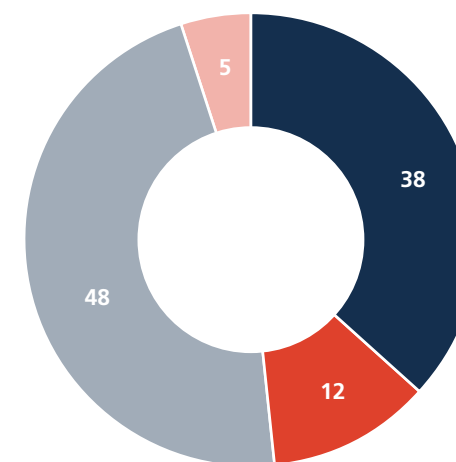
In these figures we present a comparison among the above mentioned faculties at the University of Copenhagen on key numbers: PhD enrolments and PhD degrees awarded during the year, as well as the number of enrolled PhD students by the end of the year.



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



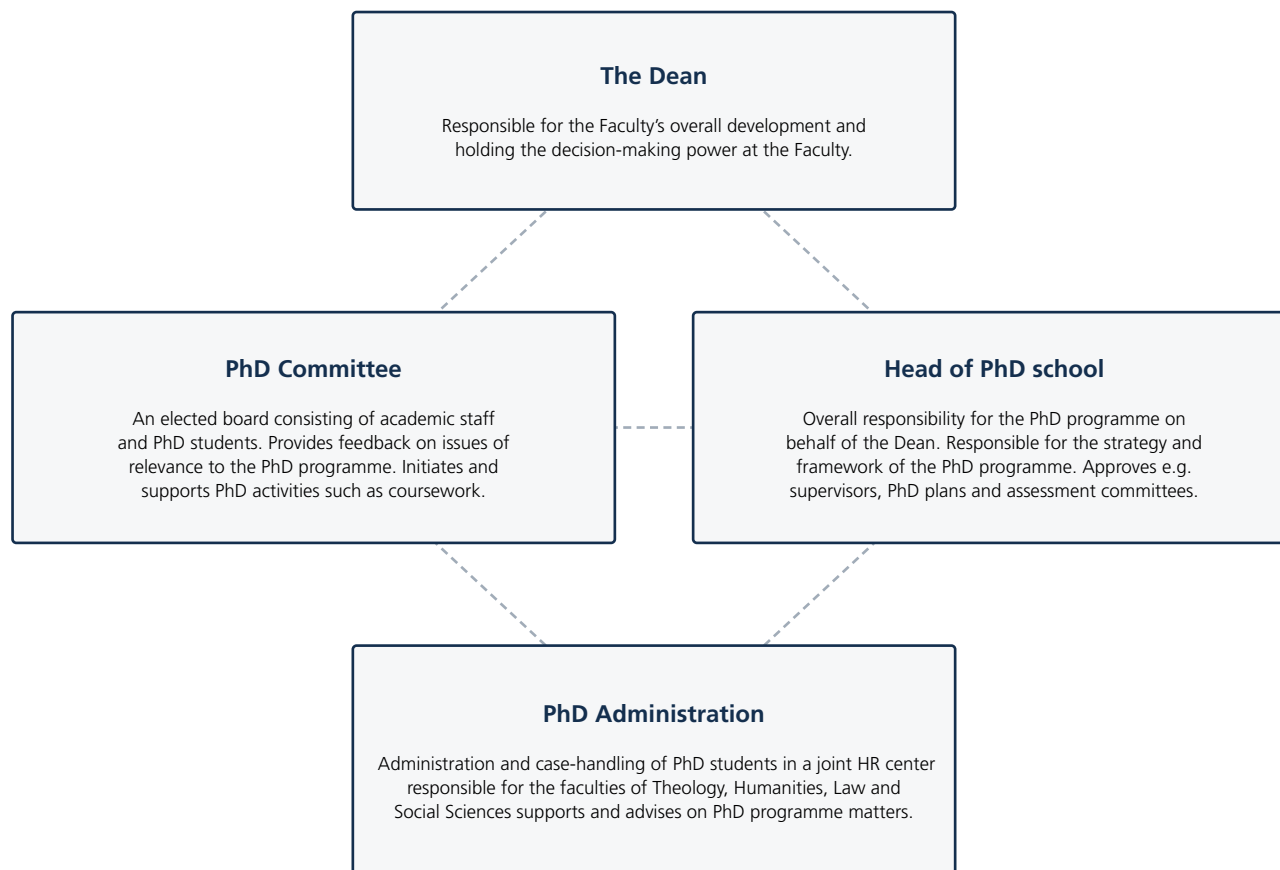
Awarded PhD degrees during the year



PhD students enrolled during the year

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

The PhD School organisation







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