



Drug Research Academy

Graduate Programme in Pharmaceutical Sciences



Drug Research Academy is one of the 22 graduate programmes at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen.

DESCRIPTION

Drug Research Academy (DRA) is an interdisciplinary graduate programme in pharmaceutical sciences hosted at the Department of Pharmacy and Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology under the Graduate School of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen. The research of the PhD students affiliated to DRA encompasses a wide range of drug-related disciplines.



THE DANISH PHD PROGRAMME

A research training programme that trains PhD students to conduct research at the highest international level, and to take responsibility for research, development, and teaching tasks in the private and public sectors, for which deep knowledge of research is required.

- The programme is prescribed to 180 ECTS credits, which corresponds to three years of full-time study.
- In the PhD programme, the PhD student must
 - carry out independent research under supervision (the PhD project),
 - complete PhD courses,
 - participate in active research environments, including stays at other public or private research institutions (usually abroad),
 - gain experience of teaching activities and other forms of knowledge dissemination (e.g., publications and conference contributions) related to the PhD student's PhD project,
 - write a PhD thesis based on the PhD project (usually in form of a cumulative thesis based on research papers in international peer reviewed journals).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The vision of DRA is to create an internationally highly recognized graduate programme in pharmaceutical sciences and further increase the quality of the PhD studies.

The programme of DRA includes several activities, e.g.:

- PhD courses and workshops, incl. the annual DRA Summer School
- DRA lectures, symposia, and seminars
- Progress reports
- Workshops on transferable skills for supervisors
- Financial support for networking events
- ULLA Summer School and workshops
(ULLA: European University Consortium for Pharmaceutical Sciences)
- Financial support for visits and PhD courses at ULLA partner institutions
- Expert local administrative guidance from the DRA secretariat
- DRA Scholarships - pre-graduate training of some of the best master's degree students enrolled at the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

ORGANISATION

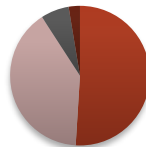
- **Head of the programme:**
Professor Petrine Wellendorph
- **Steering Committee:**
 - Petrine Wellendorph, Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology
 - Dan Stærk - Head of Department, Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology
 - Martin Malmsten - Deputy Head of Department for research, Department of Pharmacy
 - Two PhD students
- **Administration of DRA:**
 - PhD coordinator Marianne W. Jørgensen



DRA IN NUMBERS

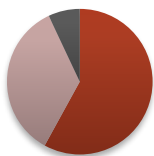
Approx. 140 PhD students
Approx. 40 PhD degrees yearly
41% / 59% Danish citizens /
other citizenship

Affiliation to department



- Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology
- Department of Pharmacy
- Department of Biomedical Sciences
- Others

Employment after graduation



- Private company 58%
- Public organisation 35%
- Other 7%

Employment survey 2020-2022:

74% of the PhD graduates got their first employment within 3 months after the conferment of the PhD degree.

77% have research and development as main function, 56% are employed in a pharmaceutical or life science company and 26% at universities.

69% work in Denmark. 86% work in a field related to their PhD project.

In the [Academic Ranking of World Universities](#), subject area 'Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences', the University of Copenhagen is the 12th best in the world for 2024.

COLLABORATION

The PhD students and supervisors in DRA have collaborations with Danish and international research institutions and industry, including clinical hospital departments and pharmaceutical and biotech companies.



DRA is part of **ULLA, the European University Consortium for Pharmaceutical Sciences**, which is an international network with an aim to enhance collaboration in education and research within pharmaceutical sciences at European universities.

DRA has a **programme collaboration** with two other graduate programmes at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences: Molecular Mechanisms of Disease (MoMed) and Preclinical In Vivo Research (IVR). The purpose is to enhance and develop central transferrable skills important for future career opportunities, help our students structure their research and increase their research productivity, and focus on career paths.

MORE INFORMATION

- Professor Petrine Wellendorph: pw@sund.ku.dk
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- Website: <https://dra.ku.dk/>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8364065/>

