

**NICLAS NØRBY JOCHUMSEN  
HUNDAHL - ARTS PHD COMMITTEE**



**What made you stand for election to the PhD committee?**

As the PhD students' representative on the Arts PhD committee, I get insight into everything leading up to important decisions, and that's exciting. The opportunity to take part in these interesting discussions is one of the main reasons I've always gotten involved in student politics.

So, when the opportunity presented itself to continue my involvement at postgraduate level (I previously served on my degree programme committee, board of studies and academic council, all at UCPH), it seemed like the perfect chance to expand my knowledge and my network at the same time.

At the same time, I'm also the kind of person who often thinks that there must be a smarter solution for X and Y - and the PhD committee is precisely a forum where your ideas and perspectives are received with respect and interest.

**What have you been particularly interested in during your time on the PhD committee?**

I've only served half my term so far, so I haven't been able to pursue a specific agenda systematically. But one of the issues that's been at the top of my agenda is drawing attention to the precarious position of early-career researchers in the university's power structure – and by extension, how we can bring about what I see as necessary change in an 'old' institution such as Aarhus University.

**What will you take with you from your time on the PhD committee?**

I've learned that change is difficult and takes time. And that the university is comprised of many branches, at academic, managerial and administrative level, that often have conflicting goals. But I do what I can to initiate the necessary dialogue that can serve as a launching pad for a change process, and I'm learning a lot along the way.

**In your opinion, what are the main arguments for standing for election to the PhD committee?**

The PhD committee is a good place to exercise concrete influence if you think there are general issues with the design of PhD programmes at Arts. You can influence how the faculty tackles these issues and the solutions that are chosen. And at the same time, you also meet other PhD students and full-time colleagues who are also working to create the best possible framework for PhD programmes at the faculty.

## **Why is it important to get involved and vote in the university elections?**

Our university democracy is pretty unique, and if we all voted in these elections, the university would probably look a bit different.