

# Principles for Student Talent Development

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## 0. Purpose

The purpose of the principles for student talent development is to outline the university's efforts in talent development to ensure high-quality talent development activities at SDU that meet common standards.

The principles were drawn up on the basis of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development<sup>1</sup> (15 May 2015). Regular references are made to relevant paragraphs *in each section*.

The principles for talent development at SDU are implemented according to a range of criteria which were prepared on the basis of experience gathering among interested parties at SDU.

Descriptions of the various types of talent activities at SDU that can prompt special recognition or an honours degree are also given here. The requirements for an activity to prompt special recognition or an honours degree are specified below each type of talent activity. Moreover, the individuals responsible for ensuring that the activities meet the established criteria are also specified.

## 1. Principles

- The purpose of student talent development at SDU is to support and strengthen the efforts directed at especially talented students such that a select portion of the most accomplished and highly motivated students receive more of a challenge academically than what they would through the regular requirements set for their programme<sup>2</sup>.
- The purpose of talent development at SDU is to strengthen the diverse array of talent efforts by providing a variety of programme offerings for particularly talented students. Talent programmes may cover any and all subject areas, both at the Bachelor and Master level.
- The purpose of the talent programme, its organisation and target group for each activity at SDU must reflect the approach to talent development.
- SDU places emphasis on quality and high-level academics. This applies to students and to talent programmes alike.
- SDU intends to create a talent-filled academic environment which promotes the development of talent.
- Talent development at SDU meets the current criteria established by the university for talent development.

## 2. Talent development criteria

The following covers the criteria established by SDU for talent development:

- SDU sets higher academic requirements for student learning outcomes than are normally demanded by regular programmes.

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<sup>1</sup> The Ministerial Order on Talent Initiatives in Higher Education Programmes under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education (the Ministerial Order on Talent Development)

<sup>2</sup> Section 2 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development

- Talent development activities require a high degree of independence in problem solving.
- SDU provides students with a great degree of individual and mutual feedback from university teachers and other resources associated with the activity.
- Students have access to the university teachers' and other resources' networks that are relevant to their talent development activity.
- The approach to teaching and other activities related to talent development is founded on knowledge and experience in promoting talent.
- Continuous developments are made to the approach to teaching and other activities based on the university teachers' and resources' learning and experiments on forms of teaching and learning.
- Conducting evaluations ensures the quality of the learning associated with a given talent activity with a view to setting new standards for future talent development.

### 3. Talent programmes<sup>3</sup>

Talent programmes consist of extra-curricular activities organised by SDU either locally or across faculties and that are offered to a select group of students.

Students are selected for talent programmes based on a concrete assessment of applicants. The assessment is made in accordance with specific objective and academic acceptance criteria.

Talent programmes at SDU are weighted with ECTS points, which are an indication of the work load to be expected from the programme.

#### 3.1 Talent programme criteria

- The purpose and aim of each programme must be clear enough that students fully understand what they should be working towards and what it takes to achieve it.
- Talent programmes must be organised such that students are able to complete the programme alongside their main course of study and within the standard study period<sup>4</sup>.
- Assignment work for cross-faculty talent programmes also requires students to cooperate with one another.
- Talent programmes at SDU must correspond to a minimum of 10 ECTS points before they can prompt special recognition of a student's degree.
- Students are selected for talent programmes based on admission criteria that ensure the best match between the student and the respective programme.

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<sup>3</sup> SDU uses "talent programmes" to refer to the talent courses of study worth additional ECTS points as mentioned in Section 6 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development

<sup>4</sup> Section 6, Article 3 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development

## 3.2 Procedure for talent programme approval

In general, there are two types of talent programmes at SDU: locally supported programmes and cross-faculty programmes offered by two or more faculties.

### 3.2.1 Talent programmes supported by a faculty, department or programme level

Faculty-supported talent programmes must be approved by the respective Study Board, which ensures that the programme meets SDU's criteria for talent development and talent programmes.

### 3.2.2 Cross-faculty talent programmes

Talent programmes offered to students across faculties at SDU must be approved by a subcommittee under the Council for Education, which ensures that the programme meets SDU's criteria for talent development and talent programmes. As part of the approval process by the Council for Education, it will be decided which Study Board is responsible for the organisation, administration and quality assurance of the respective cross-faculty programme.

## 4. Individual extra-curricular talent activities<sup>5</sup>

Individual extra-curricular talent activities are talent activities that are not included in a talent programme and that are initiated by the student themselves and/or their supervisor. Recognition of extra-curricular activities on a diploma requires the student to have participated in academic activities that can be documented and that meet the below criteria.

### 4.1 Criteria for individual extra-curricular talent activities

- Extra-curricular activities must be relevant to the programme the student was admitted to. Furthermore, the activities must also strengthen the quality of the programme and its relevance to the labour market.
- Extra-curricular activities must meet SDU's talent development criteria before they can be recognised on a diploma.
- Students must have completed the programme they were enrolled in within the standard programme period<sup>6</sup> before they can have an activity recognised on their diploma.
- Individual extra-curricular talent activities *may* consist of:<sup>7</sup>
  - Participation in subject-related conferences
  - Publication of articles in recognised journals
  - Participation in subject-related competitions

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<sup>5</sup> SDU uses "Individual extra-curricular talent activities" to refer to the extra-curricular activities as mentioned in Section 5 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development

<sup>6</sup> Section 5, Article 3 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development

<sup>7</sup> Section 5, Article 2 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development

- Participation in subject-related activities that are not part of the prescribed number of ECTS points for their programme
- Participation in research and development activities

#### 4.2 Criteria for the approval of individual extra-curricular talent activities

Each Study Board draws up guidelines on which activities can prompt the recognition of extra-curricular activities on the diplomas of their students. The guidelines of the Study Board must be approved by the Council for Education.

In order to have individual extra-curricular talent activities approved for recognition on a diploma, a supervisor must be assigned to the activity who can then recommend that the relevant Study Board recognise the activity that the respective student has completed on their diploma. The recommendation must include an explanation of the student's contributions to the specific activity, as well as documentation of their participation and that they completed the activity.

### 5. Honours degrees<sup>8</sup>

Receiving an honours degree requires the student to have reached a high academic level in comparison with the other students in their programme. In relation to the student's field, they must also be able to document one of the following criteria as a minimum.

#### 5.1 Honours degree criteria

- The student must have obtained qualifications beyond those that would be expected based on the programme's learning objectives. (5.2.1)
- The student has demonstrated exceptional or especially innovative abilities in relation to having developed, organised and realised academic or interdisciplinary initiatives. (5.2.2)
- The student has completed talent programmes organised by SDU that correspond to 30 additional ECTS points beyond that of the regular Bachelor programme and/or 20 additional ECTS points beyond that of the regular Master's programme. (5.2.3)

#### 5.2 Procedure for awarding honours degrees

##### 5.2.1 Recognition of exceptional academic performance<sup>9</sup>

Honours awarded to students who have achieved qualifications beyond those that would be expected in consideration of the programme's learning objectives will be based on a *comprehensive* assessment of the student's academic level—in addition to their master's thesis or bachelor project.

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<sup>8</sup> Section 4 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development

<sup>9</sup> Section 4, Article 1 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development

This requires that *both* the examiner and censor recommend the master's thesis or bachelor project to a committee of experts formed<sup>10</sup> by the Dean, such as the Academic Council or a subcommittee thereof, which then assesses whether the student and their master's thesis or bachelor project have reached such an exceptional academic level that it justifies honours.

### ***5.2.2 Recognition for exceptional or especially innovative talent<sup>11</sup>***

Honours awarded to students who have demonstrated exceptional or especially innovative abilities in having developed, organised and realised academic or interdisciplinary initiatives are often awarded following recommendation by the Head of Studies, programme head or similar to a committee of experts formed by the Dean<sup>12</sup>, such as the Academic Council or a subcommittee thereof. The committee assesses whether the student's exceptional or especially innovative skills justify their award of honours.

### ***5.2.3 Honours for the completion of talent programmes corresponding to a minimum of 30 ECTS points at the undergraduate level and/or 20 ECTS points at the postgraduate level<sup>13</sup>***

If the student has completed a talent programme organised by SDU corresponding to a minimum of 30 ECTS points at the undergraduate level and/or 20 ECTS points at the postgraduate level within the standard study period, this will prompt an honours degree.

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<sup>10</sup> Section 4, Article 2 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development

<sup>11</sup> Section 4, Article 2 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development

<sup>12</sup> Section 4, Article 3 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development

<sup>13</sup> Section 6, Article 4 of the Ministerial Order on Talent Development