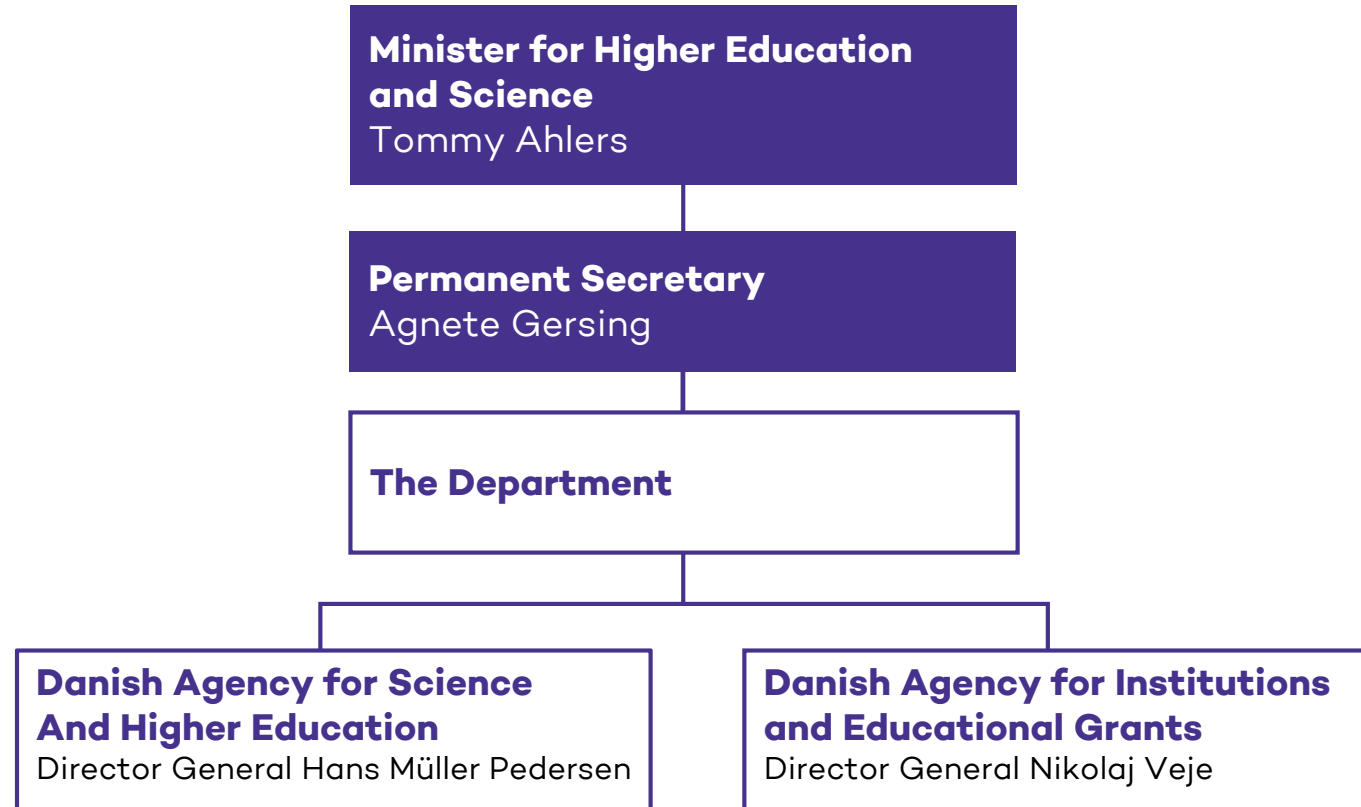


# Data on the retention of international students – from a Danish perspective



Anette Birna Muus Day, Helsinki, 18 June 2019

# Ministry of Higher Education and Science



# Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education

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# **A change of political focus regarding international students in Denmark**

- Too many international graduates leave Denmark upon graduation – they do not contribute to Danish economy
- More international graduates must stay and work in Denmark
- Reduction of the number of study programmes in English
- Retention of international students – a new focus

# Two selected surveys from the ministry regarding international students in Denmark

- International students' career plans
- International students in Denmark – what is important for whether international students stay in Denmark upon graduation?

# The following factors are the most important for why international graduates choose to stay in Denmark

- Work/life balance on the Danish labor market
- The salary level in the Danish labor market
- Professional development and challenges
- International experience

# **The following factors have a positive impact on the graduates' tendency to stay in Denmark**

- Danish partner
- Age
- Country of origin
- Student job
- Subject area

- Satisfaction with the quality of the Danish education
- Knowledge about the labour market
- Participation in career guidance
- Danish network
- Length of study programme





# The most frequent reasons why international students leave Denmark are

- Job offer outside of Denmark
- Professional network outside Denmark
- Social network outside Denmark
- Language barriers

# Which areas of retention activities seem to work best at the institutions?

- Danish lessons
- Mentors
- Contact with the local business community
- Internships
- Career center



# Examples on different institutions' retention activities

- Matchmaking event/job fairs for international students/International Company Day/Company dating
- Mentor programmes between companies and the international students
- Cultural programmes to strengthen the international students' social network
- Cooperation between the institutions and the local business service system

- Improved cooperation between institutions and language schools
- International afternoon sessions:
  - *how to present your professional profile*
  - *professional use of linkedin*
  - *prepare the international students for their internship*
  - *prepare the international students for job interviews*
  - *teach the international students about “the Danish employer”, how to act in Danish work settings and how to “break” the cultural codes*

# **Thank you**

## **Any questions?**

**Anette Birna Muus Day**  
**amu@ufm.dk**