

## **JOINT PHD AT THE FACULTY OF HEALTH, AARHUS UNIVERSITY**

### ***A preliminary checklist for PhD students from abroad***

With an annual intake of 150-200 students the PhD school at Health, AU is one of Denmark's largest PhD schools. More than 600 candidates are currently enrolled and around 15% are recruited from abroad. In addition, we welcome guest PhD students and joint PhD students from abroad.

A joint PhD is joint approval of your qualifications as documented by a diploma issued by both universities. The precondition for a joint PhD is a collaborative research project and therefore you must have a co-supervisor at Health, AU. The PhD school is not able to help you in identifying a co-supervisor.

At Health, AU we distinguish between the home university and the partner university. Prospective joint PhD students from abroad have a home university other than Health, AU. The home university is responsible for the study program and its administration. It is here that the student is admitted, will defend his or her thesis, and here that he or she will be completing a normal program of PhD study – or as close to normal as possible when considering that the rules and regulations of the PhD school at Health, AU must also be observed. When accepting a student for a joint PhD, the PhD school at Health, AU is simultaneously accepting the program of PhD study at the home university in terms of content and quality. Therefore the study program might need to include elements or procedures that are necessary according to Danish law.

It can be a long process to reach an agreement depending on how well matched the two PhD study programs are. We therefore invite you to first go through the below checklist with your home university:

1. The PhD student must have a Master's degree.
2. Admittance and enrolment procedures at the home university must include a quality assessment of candidate, project, research environment etc.
3. The study program must include participation in PhD level short courses.
4. The study program must include teaching and/or knowledge dissemination.
5. The PhD student must participate in the course on scientific conduct at Health, AU.
6. The study program must include a research stay at Health, AU of at least 6 months during which the PhD student continues to be enrolled and financed by the home university.
7. There must be an appointed co-supervisor at Health, AU.
8. There must be regular evaluations of the student's progress.
9. The thesis must be in English and have a summary in English and Danish.
10. A representative from Health, AU (not the co-supervisor) must be member of the assessment committee, i.e. the committee assessing the thesis, recommending it for defense, and ultimately recommending that the PhD degree be awarded.
11. Supervisors and co-supervisors can't be voting members of the assessment committee.
12. The defense must be a public lecture in English (if the defense is a closed examination two defenses are needed – this is not advisable).
13. Documentation from the assessment and the defense, including a recommendation for defense on the basis of the thesis, must be forwarded to Health, AU.
14. The degree from Health, AU is awarded by the Academic Council – it is ultimately their decision to award or to not award the degree.
15. The diploma is either a joint PhD diploma (the diploma from the home university is co-signed by Health, AU) or a double PhD diploma (a second diploma is issued by Health, AU).
16. The PhD student is enrolled (registered) at Health, AU until the thesis is handed in at the home university. She/he will not be charged any study fees or course fees from Health, AU.

The list is a preliminary checklist meant to aid you in assessing the feasibility of a joint PhD at Health, AU. The list is not exhaustive. We refer to the guidelines and will ask for further information if needed.

Whether you come as a joint PhD student or as a guest PhD you will benefit from access to state-of-the-art facilities, internationally renowned researchers, professional service, and an informal learning environment.