AARHUS UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

Agreement on a double PhD degree

For SDC PhD students with primary enrolment in China

According to the Partnership Agreement on the establishment of SDC (2010), SDC PhD students may be awarded a double PhD degree in accordance with national rules and procedures of the partner institution.

The purpose of this agreement is to set forth the conditions for obtaining a double PhD degree from the Faculty of Health, Aarhus University (HEALTH) for the PhD student enrolled at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) with funding from the Sino-Danish Center for Education and Research (SDC).

An agreement for a double PhD degree from HEALTH should be signed as soon as possible after admission to the home university and no later than before the end of the required study visit.

1. Parties

The home university is the place of primary enrolment and is overall responsible for the students' study program and its administration, including procedures in connection with admission, progress evaluation and graduation. The student follows a PhD programme according to the rules and regulations of the home university but also observing rules and regulations at HEALTH.

Home university:
Department:

Partner university: Faculty of Health, Aarhus University (HEALTH)
Department:

SDC PhD student:
Qualifying degree:
Birth date:
E-mail address:

Title of PhD project:

The student has a Master's degree – or will obtain similar qualifications before graduation – and documented English language skills.

2. Admission and enrolment

Admission will be at the home university according to procedures and criteria at the home university, including a quality assessment of candidate, project, research environment, etc.

Enrolment (registration) will be at the home university and at HEALTH.

Rules in respect of such matters as privacy and personal information protection, discipline, and health and safety will be in accordance with the university where the student is at the time studying.

Date of admission:
Date of enrolment at the home university (project start date):
Date of defence at the home university (expected)

Date of defence at HEALTH, Aarhus University (expected):

The student undergoes regular evaluations of study progress at the home university and at the partner university. At Health, AU, the evaluations are done in MyPhD.

3. Supervision

The student is appointed a main supervisor at the home university and a co-supervisor at HEALTH. Together the supervisors shall oversee and be responsible for the student's work in accordance with the regulations at each university.

Main supervisor:
E-mail address:

Co-supervisor:
E-mail address:

4. Programme

The programme at the home university qualifies the student to undertake research, development and teaching assignments, for which a broad knowledge of research is required. Duration of the programme shall be according to the regulations at the home university, normally 3-4 years full time equivalent.

Within this time, the student undertakes a research project on an international level, participates in PhD courses corresponding to min. 28 ECTS, takes part in teaching and knowledge dissemination, undertakes mobility to HEALTH in the form of a study visit, and writes a thesis.

All research and research publications undertaken under this agreement will be in accordance with the applicable guidelines for good research practice and the Vancouver rules.

5. Study visit

The student will spend a min. of 6 months at HEALTH doing project relevant research and/or research related activities like course activities, writing articles or teaching. HEALTH provides a suitable work place, including access to library and technical facilities. The student continues to be enrolled at the home university.

It is the responsibility of the student to arrange for insurance coverage, immigration, tax registration, accommodation, etc. but HEALTH will provide assistance in finding accommodation, obtaining a work permit, and registering with authorities upon arrival.

When (to/from):
Duration (≥ 6 months):

Planned activities:

6a. Course work

As part of the programme the student completes PhD courses corresponding to min. 28 ECTS. Upon enrolment at HEALTH, the student can participate in PhD short courses offered by HEALTH free of charge. Course applications are accepted on equal terms with regular enrolled PhD students.

The student is required to participate in the course on good scientific conduct for PhD students at HEALTH (2018: 'Responsible Conduct of Research', 1 ECTS).

Proposed course date:
Consult the course calendar for available dates: http://phd.health.au.dk/doingaphd/phdcourses

PhD courses incl. the course on good scientific conduct:

Course title and provider	Completed (x)	Planned (x)	ECTS*
Total ECTS (min. 28)			

*1 ECTS = 25 hours incl. homework, assignments, exams, etc./5 ECTS = 1 month/30 ECTS = 6 months/60 ECTS = 1 year

An updated list of courses is forwarded to HEALTH at the latest when handing in the thesis. External courses need to be approved and assigned ECTS: https://phd.health.au.dk/doingaphd/ordinaryphd/phdcourses/external-activities

6b. Teaching and knowledge dissemination

As part of the programme the student gains experience in teaching and/or knowledge dissemination. It can be any activity that involves the student to pass on knowledge and information about his/her academic field and research area and includes such activities as classroom lessons, lectures, supervising, training in the laboratory, preparing teaching materials and online resources, making brochures and posters, giving presentations and talks, participating in a conference, congress, symposium or seminar.

Activity	Completed (x)	Planned (x)

7. Degree award – home university

The PhD student submits a thesis to the home university following the format and language requirements of the home university and defends his/her thesis according to rules and regulations at the home university. The home university appoints an assessment committee who will assess the thesis and the defence before making a final recommendation as to whether the Chinese degree can be awarded. Members of the assessment committee must be recognized researchers within the field.

8. Degree award - HEALTH

Thesis
No later than 12 months after conferral of the PhD degree from the home university, the PhD student submits a thesis to HEALTH. The thesis must be in English and have a summary in English and in Danish. The thesis follows the format of HEALTH and will be assessed according to the guidelines and requirements at HEALTH. It must meet the international standards for a thesis in the field of health science and publications and manuscripts must be in concordance with the Vancouver requirements.

The thesis including co-author statements and a support letter from the co-supervisor is submitted to HEALTH as PDF.

Assessment committee
Five months before the dissertation is submitted, the co-supervisor at HEALTH submits a suggestion for an assessment committee to HEALTH as well as a preliminary defence date. Composition of the assessment committee follows the rules and regulations of HEALTH and is approved by the PhD Committee at HEALTH.

According to the rules of HEALTH the assessment committee should consist of three recognized researchers within the relevant field of study. They must be at associate professor level or higher and both genders should be represented (if possible). The chair of the committee must be employed at HEALTH; the other two members must be employed at another institution than Aarhus University. At least one of the members should be employed outside Denmark. Supervisors or co-supervisors cannot be members of the committee.

The composition of the committee is subject to the rules on disqualification laid down in the Danish Public Administration Act, meaning that the members of the committee for example cannot be close colleagues of the supervisors or the PhD student or have co-published material within the last three years with the supervisors or the student.

The committee prepares a preliminary recommendation in English as to whether the defence can take place or the thesis should be revised and resubmitted.

Defence
Following a positive preliminary assessment of the thesis a public defence is held at HEALTH. The defence is held in English and according to the rules and regulations at HEALTH. The PhD student presents a lecture of 35-45 minutes on the topic of the dissertation followed by questions and examination. Immediately after the defence, the assessment committee will announce its recommendation on the dissertation and the defence.

Under special circumstances it is possible to hold the defence via video link. It is the responsibility of the co-supervisor at HEALTH together with the PhD student to arrange for practicalities regarding the defence.

Diploma
Following the public defence the assessment committee prepares a final recommendation (written and substantiated) in English as to whether the degree can be awarded. If the defence is successful, the assessment committee recommends that the student is awarded a double PhD degree. The double PhD degree is awarded by the Academic Council at HEALTH under the condition that the student has acquired qualifications comparable to those acquired under a Danish PhD programme.

A second diploma for a 'Double PhD degree in Health Science' is issued by HEALTH and signed by the Dean and the Head of The Graduate School. The diploma will reflect the joint nature of the programme and state its validity only in conjunction with the certificate from the home university.

9. Financial matters

The student pays tuition and other fees to the home university according to regulations at the home university. HEALTH will not charge tuition or registration fees for enrolment or study visit, nor fees for participation in PhD courses.

The student is paid a stipend or salary for living expenses from the home university or is otherwise funded for the duration of the programme. The student upholds this funding during the study visit. Funding must be sufficient for obtaining a PhD work permit. Individual costs like travel, insurance, accommodation, work permit, etc. is the responsibility of the student.

Co-supervisor travel expenses (supervision visits, participation at the defence, etc.) is the responsibility of the co-supervisor, unless otherwise agreed between the co-supervisor and the home university. Project related expenses rising from the joint programme is the responsibility of the supervisor team, including the co-supervisor for expenses relating to activities during the study visit at HEALTH. Expenses rising from either defence, including travel and any remuneration for members of the assessment committee is the responsibility of the university where the defence takes place.

10. IPR

Intellectual property rights resulting from work carried out under this agreement shall be subject to the legal provisions in force in the countries of the participating universities. The student's right and obligation to submit and defend his/her thesis, to publish his/her findings and keep the copyright for his/her thesis must be secured.

Research results generated jointly by the student and researchers employed at HEALTH shall be jointly owned by such researchers and the student or home university, as applicable. Ownership is to be decided based upon the contribution and ownership shall be proportional to such contribution. In the event of possible registration and/or commercialization of IP the parties agree to negotiate in good faith a written agreement.

The student shall not publish or otherwise disclose research results of researchers employed at HEALTH without prior approval.

11. Termination clause

This agreement comes into effect upon signature by the parties and is valid until issuance of the diploma. The agreement becomes invalid if the student is expelled from or leaves the PhD programme at the home university. Further, the agreement can be terminated after consultation between the parties:

- by mutual consent of the parties
- by the student, who is asked to provide a written summary of the reasons for the decision
- by either university, if a supervisor renounces or is relieved of his/her duties and a suitable replacement cannot be found
- by either university, if the student is found in serious breach of regulations at the university
- by either university, if the progress evaluations reveal the quality and progress of the students' work to be not satisfying causing the completion of the programme to be impossible or in jeopardy
- by either university, if the other party is found to be in breach of the terms of the agreement
- by either university, if, in case of disagreement, consensus is impossible

12. Mandatory enclosures

☐ Admission and enrolment letter from the home university
☐ CV incl. publications
☐ Degree certificate incl. transcript of records
☐ Documentation for English language skills

12. Signatures

PhD student	
PhD student	Date/signature:

Home university	
Main supervisor	Date/signature:
Head of department	Date/signature:
[title of person responsible for PhD education]	Date/signature:

Faculty of Health, Aarhus University	
Co-supervisor	Date/signature:
Head of department	Date/signature:
Head of Graduate School	Date/signature:

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