**Agreement on a joint or double PhD degree**

*For PhD students with primary enrolment abroad*

The purpose of this agreement is to set forth the applicable conditions for the PhD student enrolled abroad and his/her participation in a joint PhD programme with the purpose of obtaining a joint or double PhD degree from the Faculty of Health, Aarhus University (henceforth Health, AU).

Participation in a joint programme must be agreed upon 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, AU.

Home university:

Department:

Partner university: Faculty of Health, Aarhus University (Health, AU)

Department:

PhD student:

Qualifying degree:

Birth date:

E-mail address:

The student has a Master’s degree (or comparable degree) and documented English language skills.

**2. Admission and enrolment**

Admission and applications for employment/scholarship will be at the home university according to procedures and criteria at the home university. Admission procedures at the home university must include a quality assessment of candidate, project, research environment, etc.

Enrolment (registration) will be at the home university and – upon approval of the joint programme – at Health, AU.

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 (expected):

The student undergoes regular evaluations of study progress at the home university. Copies of the evaluations are forwarded to Health, AU.

**3. Supervision**

The student is appointed a main supervisor at the home university and a co-supervisor at Health, AU. 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 approx. 30 ECTS, takes part in teaching and knowledge dissemination, undertakes mobility to Health, AU 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. The guidelines “Standards for Responsible Conduct of Research at Health” is available from the website <http://health.au.dk/en/>.

**5. Study visit**

The student will spend a min. of 6 months at Health, AU doing project relevant research and/or research related activities like course activities, writing articles or teaching. Health, AU 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, AU will provide assistance in finding accommodation, obtaining a work permit, and registering with authorities upon arrival.

When (to/from):

Duration (≥ 6 months):

Planned activities:

**6. Course work**

As part of the programme the student will pass PhD courses corresponding to approx. 30 ECTS (1/2 year full time equivalent). Upon enrolment at Health, AU, the student can participate in PhD courses offered by Health, AU 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 the Faculty of Health, Aarhus University (‘Responsible Conduct of Research’, 3.1 ECTS).

Proposed course date:

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

**7. Assessment committee**

The home university appoints a committee who will assess the thesis and the defence before making a final recommendation as to whether the degree can be awarded.

Members must be recognized researchers within the field. Supervisors and co-supervisors CANNOT be voting members of the committee.

The committee consist of [insert number; at least 3] members:

1. A qualified representative from Health, AU who is not the co-supervisor.
2. […]
3. […]

The PhD committee at Health, AU must approve the assessment committee. The home university provides Health, AU with a list of members as soon as possible after appointment.

If regulations at the home university stipulates that supervisors must be voting members of e.g. an examination committee, then two committees are appointed by the home university of which the committee recommending the degree award does not include the supervisors as voting members.

**8. Thesis**

The thesis follows the format of the home university. It must be in English and have a summary in English and in Danish. 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 is submitted to the home university for joint assessment by both universities. An electronic copy of the thesis including co-author statements (if applicable) is forwarded to Health, AU where it will be screened for duplicate text. Depending on the result, the PhD student may be asked to correct and resubmit the thesis. The thesis should not be sent to the assessment committee until the screening process has been completed.

The assessment committee prepares a preliminary recommendation in English as to whether the defence can take place or the thesis should be resubmitted. This recommendation (written and substantiated) is forwarded to Health, AU. If such a recommendation is not standard practice at the home university, the member representing Health, AU prepares a recommendation on behalf of the committee.

**9. Defence**

The joint programme is concluded as the result of a joint public defence at the home university. Or – if the condition of a public defence cannot under any circumstances be met by the home university – as the result of a defence (or examination) at the home university followed by a public defence at Health, AU.

The assessment committee member from Health, AU must be present for the defence (or examination) at the home university – either in person or via video link. Following the public defence the assessment committee prepares a final recommendation in English as to whether the degree can be awarded. This recommendation (written and substantiated) is forwarded to Health, AU.

There is only one joint public defence. It is held in English at the home university according to the rules and regulations at the home university.

There will be a defence (or examination) at the home university followed by a public defence at Health, AU. Both are held in English and according to local rules and regulations.

**10. Degree award and diploma**

Upon award of the PhD degree from the home university the PhD degree is awarded by the Academic Council at Health, AU under the condition that the student has acquired qualifications comparable to those acquired under a Danish PhD programme.

If the defence is successful, the student is awarded either a joint PhD degree or a double PhD degree:

Joint PhD degree: The Dean and the Head of the Graduate School at Health, AU will co-sign the diploma from the home university.

Double PhD degree: A second diploma for a ‘Double PhD degree in Health Science’ is issued by Health, AU 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.

**11. Financial matters**

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

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 (if applicable). 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, AU.

Expenses rising from the joint public defence, including travel and any remuneration for members of the assessment committee, including the member representing Health, AU, is the responsibility of the home university where the defence takes place. In special circumstances Health, AU – i.e. co-supervisor or graduate school - can agree to cover the travel expenses of the member representing Health, AU.

Travel expenses are reimbursed by the home university

Travel expenses are reimbursed by the co-supervisor at Health, AU

Travel expenses are reimbursed by the graduate school at Health, AU – after prior agreement only

In the case of two defences: It is the responsibility of the home university to cover all expenses, including travel and any remuneration for members of the committee, rising from the defence or examination at the home university. It is the responsibility of the co-supervisor - whether by agreement with the graduate school at Health, AU or otherwise – to ensure sufficient means to cover all expenses rising from the public defence at Health, AU.

**12. 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, AU 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, AU without prior approval.

**13. 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 the PhD programme at the home university.

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

**14. Enclosures**

Admission and enrolment letter from the home university

Project description

CV incl. publications

Degree certificate incl. transcript of records

Documentation for English language skills

Documentation for the content and structure of the PhD education at the home university\*\*

\*\*Documentation must clearly state: 1) admission criteria, 2) mechanisms for progress monitoring, 3) thesis requirements, 4) requirements for course participation, and 5) requirements for participation in teaching and knowledge dissemination. Documentation must be in English and in the form of a copy of the current PhD regulations, prints from the official website, or a letter from the Graduate School, etc.

**15. Signatures**

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| --- | --- |
| **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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