To whom it may concern

The universities' possibilities of concluding agreements on joint degrees for PhDs

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After having received a number of concrete inquiries, the Danish University and Property Agency would like to provide information on the universities' possibilities of concluding agreements on joint degrees for PhDs.

A joint degree is normally the result of a successfully completed and positively assessed PhD programme, where the cooperating universities, which have contributed significantly and responsibly to the programme, guidance and assessment, award one joint diploma signed by both universities. This means that the PhD student is awarded one doctoral degree.

Internationally, there are several definitions of joint and double/multiple degrees, which may render it difficult to interpret the concept in relation to Danish law.

If a joint degree is defined as a situation where a Danish diploma for the PhD degree is endorsed, signed or the like by one or more foreign universities, making it appear as a joint document or making it enforceable under foreign law, it will be possible for a Danish university to conclude an agreement with one or more foreign universities on the awarding of joint degrees to PhD students.

For your information, the new PhD order is expected to be referred to consultation right after Easter 2010. The new order will, among other things, contain provisions on the awarding of double degrees.

Kind regards,

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Head of Division