To all universities

Amendment of the Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme at the Universities (the PhD order)

2 June 2010

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Ref. 09-072626
Doc id. 1889525
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./. Please find enclosed Ministerial Order no. 577 of 28 May 2010 amending the PhD order. The ministerial order was published in the Danish Official Gazette on 1 June 2010 and will enter into force on 2 June 2010.

A link to the ministerial order on Retsinformation.dk is provided on the Danish University and Property Agency's website (www.ubst.dk) together with this covering letter.

The Agency referred the draft ministerial order to consultation on 12 April 2010, which only gave rise to one minor language correction based on the consultation responses.

With the amendment of the PhD order, the universities are given the possibility of awarding the PhD degree to foreign students who have completed an exchange programme in Denmark as part of an international education and research cooperation. This means that these students may obtain a double degree.

A bilateral international research and education cooperation, as referred to in section 2, subsection 2, of the PhD order, means cooperation within the framework of, for example, Erasmus Mundus or the Danish University Centre in Beijing, i.e. a formal cooperation typically based on an agreement between one or more Danish and foreign universities.

In addition, the amended order stipulates that in future, the month of July will not be included when calculating the deadline for the assessment committee's preliminary assessment of the PhD thesis.

In their consultation responses, several universities have requested that the deadline for the preliminary assessment of the PhD thesis be extended further over the summer or made more flexible. This request has not been granted, as the Agency finds that it is not in the interest of the students to provide further scope for extending the assessment period. Also, it must be ensured that the order remains consistent with the other provisions applicable to the field of education.

Several consultation responses commented on the issue of the universities' possibilities of awarding joint degrees. The Agency does not believe that this must be

made subject to regulation, as it is already possible for the universities to make agreements on joint degrees under the existing rules. The universities were informed of this by letter of 26 March 2010.

The Agency will continue to focus on other potential barriers to the universities' international cooperation. In this connection, the Agency will assess on a case-by-case basis whether an exemption may be granted under section 27, subsection 2, of the PhD order.

If you have any questions, please contact Louise Kornmaaler, Administrator, on lok@ubst.dk or Marlene Scott Reinbacher, Administrator, on masr@ubst.dk.

Yours sincerely

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Head of Division