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## Dual Degree Program, PhD in Education between the University of Tennessee and the University of Padua, Italy (UTK Notification)

University of Tennessee Knoxville

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VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

April 13, 2012

Dr. Belle Wheelan  
President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

**RECEIVED**  
**APR 16 2012**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR**

RE: Substantive Change at the University of Tennessee

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

Please consider this letter notification from the University of Tennessee of a substantive change at the institution on the Knoxville campus, per the guidelines as stated in the Substantive Change for Accredited Institutions of the Commission on Colleges - Policy Statement and Procedures and the Collaborative Academic Arrangements: Policies and Procedures documents.

Dual Degree: Ph. D. Education between the University of Tennessee and the University of Padua, Italy

The University of Tennessee plans to enter into an agreement to implement a Ph.D. dual degree program in Education with the University of Padua, Padova, Italy.

*Start Date of Program: May 9, 2012*

*Lead Person authorized to answer questions about the agreement at the University of Tennessee:*

Dr. Pia Wood, Ph.D., Associate Provost, Center for International Education,  
1620 Melrose Ave.  
University of Tennessee,  
Knoxville, TN 37996  
865-974-3177  
[pwood@utk.edu](mailto:pwood@utk.edu)

*Lead Person authorized to answer questions about the agreement at the University of Padua:*

Dott.ssa Katia Milan  
Università degli Studi di Padova  
Servizio formazione alla ricerca  
via 8 Febbraio, 2 – 35122 Padova, Italy  
Phone: +39 049 8271870  
Fax: +39 049 8271934  
[katia.milan@unipd.it](mailto:katia.milan@unipd.it)

*Official address where students will be studying at the University of Tennessee:*

University of Tennessee  
1331 Circle Park Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37996  
Phone: 865-974-1000

*Official address where the students will be studying at the University of Padua:*

University of Padua  
via 8 Febbraio, 2 - 35122 Padova, Italy  
Phone: +39 049 827 5111  
Call Centre: +39 049 827 3131

*Summary of Program*

Students who wish to enter the PhD. dual degree program in Education must be registered at both universities (home and host), at some point during the program. Each student must apply for and be admitted to each university. All coursework from Italy will be reviewed for suitability of transferring to UT. Students from the University of Padua who study at UTK are required to take a minimum of 30 hours of coursework at UT which is more than 30 percent of the total credits required for the degree. The doctoral students will carry out their research under the guidance of two supervisors, one from each university. The supervisors will be appointed in accordance with the regulations of each institution. The envisaged duration of the doctorate is three years. The dissertation will be written in English (with a written abstract in Italian) and will be assessed by means of a single examination. The board of examiners/committee of the doctoral dissertation will be designated jointly by the two universities.

Please find attached a draft agreement for the proposed dual degree program.

I trust this letter satisfies the responsibility of the University of Tennessee to notify the Association of this substantive change.

Sincerely,



Katherine N. High, Ed.D.  
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success and  
SACS Liaison

cc: Dr. Joseph A. DiPietro, President  
Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek, Chancellor  
Dr. Susan D. Martin, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Mary Albrecht, Associate Vice Chancellor  
Dr. Carolyn Hodges, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School Carolyn Hodges  
Dr. Pia Wood, Associate Provost, Center for International Education  
Dr. Robert Rider, Dean, College of Education, Health and Human Sciences  
Dr. Steven M. Sheeley, Vice President, SACS

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT  
ON THE DUAL DOCTORAL DEGREE  
MEMORANDUM D'INTESA – ACCORDO QUADRO  
PER LA CO-TUTELA DI TESI DI DOTTORATO**

between the Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy, represented by the Rector, Prof. Giuseppe Zaccaria and The University of Tennessee, on behalf of the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences on its Knoxville campus in the United States of America (UTK), represented by the Chancellor, Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek

*tra l'Università degli Studi di Padova, Italia, rappresentata dal Rettore, Prof. Giuseppe Zaccaria, e la University of Tennessee, per conto del College of Education, Health and Human Sciences, campus di Knoxville – USA (UTK), rappresentata dal Chancellor, Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek*

The Università degli Studi di Padova and The University of Tennessee  
*L'Università degli Studi di Padova e la University of Tennessee*

**Considering  
Considerato**

- that both Institutions are sharing common objectives in the academic and cultural field,  
*che entrambe le Istituzioni condividono obiettivi comuni in campo accademico e culturale,*
- that both Universities carry out activities aimed at establishing liaisons in order to promote the diffusion and exchange of scientific and cultural knowledge,  
*che entrambe le Università hanno il compito di realizzare azioni mirate a stabilire linee di collegamento al fine di promuovere la diffusione e lo scambio di sapere scientifico e culturale,*
- that both Universities are empowered to award Research Doctorate Degrees in their respective countries,  
*che entrambe le Università hanno il potere di conferire Titoli di Dottorato di Ricerca nei rispettivi paesi.*

agree upon the creation of a dual doctoral degree program, in order to foster scientific cooperation between the research programs of the two Institutions and in order to promote the mobility of doctoral students between the Universities. In this context, the following provisions are proposed:

*convergono sulla creazione di una procedura di co-tutela delle tesi di dottorato, al fine di promuovere la cooperazione scientifica tra i programmi di ricerca delle due Istituzioni e di favorire la mobilità dei dottorandi tra le Università. In questo contesto sono proposte le seguenti disposizioni:*

1. The two partner Universities will sign an individual convention for each of the doctoral students who wants to engage in the dual doctoral degree program. This convention, in accordance with the provisions of the articles of this Agreement, will specify: the names of the doctoral student and of the two supervisors, which University will assume the administrative responsibility for the student, which University and department will be hosting the doctoral student, the division of the studies period between the two Universities, the health and insurance coverage of the doctoral student, details about the final examination (e.g. the composition of the board of examiners/committee), the procedures for the award of the Degree, the safeguard of the intellectual property right and of the research results as well as any other significant issues for the dual doctoral degree.

*Le due Università del partenariato stipuleranno una convenzione individuale per ogni dottorando che intenda attivare una co-tutela della tesi di dottorato. Questa convenzione, in accordo con quanto stabilito negli articoli di questo Accordo, specificherà: il nome del dottorando e dei due supervisori, quale Università assumerà la responsabilità amministrativa dello studente, la ripartizione dei periodi di studio tra le due Università, la copertura assicurativa e sanitaria del dottorando, l'esame finale (ad*

*esempio composizione della commissione d'esame), le modalità di assegnazione del Titolo, la tutela della proprietà intellettuale e dei risultati della ricerca, nonché ogni altro aspetto rilevante ai fini della co-tutela della tesi.*

2. Coordinators shall be named by each institution to serve as liaisons for implementing this agreement. All activities conducted under the auspices of this agreement must have the endorsement of the coordinators. At UTK, the coordinator will be Associate Dean of the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, and at the University of Padua, the coordinator will be the Director of the Doctoral School in Pedagogical Sciences. In addition, UTK will appoint, Assistant Dean for Student Services of the Graduate School to be responsible for the administrative details of the program. At the University of Padua, the Head of the Servizio formazione alla ricerca will be responsible for the administrative details of the program. Coordinators shall notify their counterparts should a new person be named to the position.

*Ciascuna istituzione nominerà dei Coordinatori al fine di realizzare l'accordo. Tutte le attività svolte nell'ambito di questo accordo devono avere l'approvazione dei coordinatori. Presso l'UTK il coordinatore sarà l'Associate Dean del College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, presso l'Università di Padova il coordinatore sarà il Direttore della Scuola di Dottorato in Scienze Psicologiche. Inoltre l'UTK nominerà l' Assistant Dean for Student Services of the Graduate School quale responsabile degli aspetti amministrativi del programma. Presso l'Università di Padova il responsabile per gli aspetti amministrativo sarà il capo servizio del Servizio formazione alla ricerca. I Coordinatori comunicheranno alla controparte eventuali cambiamenti nelle nomine di tali servizi.*

3. The doctoral student starting the dual doctoral degree program will be registered in both Universities, home and host, at some point in the program. Therefore, the student must apply for and become admitted, meeting requirements for admission including transferability of coursework, as a graduate student in both universities. At UTK, students whose native language is not English must provide acceptable TOEFL scores for admission. The responsibility for the academic supervision of the doctoral project will be held jointly between the two Universities.

*Il dottorando che attiverà la co-tutela sarà iscritto presso entrambe le Università. La responsabilità amministrativa dello studente sarà assunta dall'Università dove il dottorando ha effettuato le prove per l'ammissione al dottorato. La responsabilità per la supervisione accademica del progetto di ricerca di dottorato sarà congiunta tra le due Università.*

4. The tuition fees will be paid to the University where registration takes place. At UTK, a minimum registration for 6 hours of 600-level coursework and 24 hours of dissertation coursework are required. Typically, the student will register for the minimum 24 hours of 600 level dissertation coursework while in residence at UTK. Once the minimum 24 hours of 600 registration is complete, continued enrollment in 600 is not required if the student is not in residence at UTK.

*Le tasse di iscrizione saranno versate alla Sede amministrativa, ma nella convenzione specifica sarà possibile concordare una diversa distribuzione delle tasse di iscrizione tra le due Università.*

5. The doctoral students will carry out their research under the guidance of two responsible supervisors, one for each of the Universities, who must be appointed according to the regulations of each Institution. At UTK, the University of Padua faculty supervising members would submit a request for adjunct status and a vita to the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling to be approved for adjunct faculty status. UTK assumes no financial responsibility for payment of Italian faculty engaged in the dual degree.

*I dottorandi realizzeranno la loro ricerca sotto la guida di due supervisori, uno per ognuna delle due Università, individuati secondo i regolamenti vigenti nelle rispettive Istituzioni.*

6. The envisaged duration of the doctorate is three academic years; possible extensions may be requested, provided that the supervisors agree. Regulations of the hosting institution will apply. At

UTK, the Graduate School requires all requirements for the degree to be complete within eight years.

*La durata prevista del dottorato è di 3 anni accademici; eventuali proroghe possono essere richieste secondo i regolamenti dell'Università responsabile amministrativa e concordati con i due supervisori.*

7. An individual syllabus or prospectus will be prepared by the doctoral student and accepted by the board of examiners/committee, outlining the aims and the overall objectives of the research as well as the plan of investigation to be undertaken. At UTK, the student will be expected to pass a comprehensive examination established by the department faculty, successfully defend prospectus of the dissertation and apply to the Graduate School for admission to candidacy. The doctoral student will be required to spend a period of at least 10 months (not necessarily uninterrupted) at the hosting University. The specific convention for the doctoral student will identify the scheduling of the two study periods among the two Universities, with the agreement of the supervisors.  
*Verrà predisposto un piano formativo individuale per il dottorando con l'indicazione delle finalità e degli obiettivi generali della ricerca ed il progetto di ricerca che sarà intrapreso. Il dottorando dovrà trascorrere un periodo di almeno 6 mesi (anche non continuativi) presso l'Università ospitante. La convenzione specifica individuerà la ripartizione dei periodi di studio tra le due Università, in accordo con i supervisori.*
8. The dissertation will be assessed by means of a single examination. Prior to awarding of the degree at UTK, the student must apply for graduation. At that time, the degree requirements are confirmed at UTK. Following a successful final examination, the Università degli Studi di Padova will award the candidate the degree of Dottore di Ricerca and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville will award the degree of Doctor of Philosophy with a major in which the student was admitted. Each University will deliver a diploma confirming the award of the doctoral degree, issued according to the specific regulations of each partner institution. *In seguito al superamento dell'esame finale, l'Università degli Studi di Padova conferirà al candidato il titolo di Dottore di Ricerca e la University of Tennessee conferirà il titolo di Doctor. Ciascuna Università consegnerà un diploma attestante l'attribuzione del titolo di Dottore di Ricerca, emesso secondo i regolamenti specifici di ognuna delle Istituzioni che fanno parte di questo accordo. Il diploma potrà contenere l'indicazione relativa all'altra Università in qualità di partner di un dottorato congiunto*
9. The board of examiners/committee of the doctoral dissertation will be designated jointly by the two Universities and will be composed of properly qualified persons from the countries of the involved Universities; it may include the two dissertation supervisors. At UTK, the board of examiners/committee must contain the required two UTK members who are approved to direct dissertations and at least one member designated by the University of Padua. The overall number of members of the board of examiners shall not exceed 8 persons (including the two supervisors).  
*La commissione per l'esame finale sarà designata congiuntamente dalle due Università e sarà composta da membri adeguatamente qualificati provenienti dai paesi delle Università coinvolte. La commissione d'esame potrà includere i due supervisori della tesi e potrà essere composta anche da studiosi estranei alle due Istituzioni. Il numero complessivo dei commissari non dovrà essere superiore a 8 (compresi i due supervisori). Le spese per i membri della commissione di esaminatori saranno a carico dell'Università responsabile amministrativa del dottorando.*
10. The doctoral dissertation will be written in English; a written abstract in the other language must be provided. The doctoral dissertation will be discussed at one of the two partnering Universities, as specified in the individual convention  
*La tesi di dottorato sarà scritta nella lingua ufficiale di una delle due Università; verrà redatto un abstract nell'altra lingua. La tesi di dottorato sarà discussa presso una delle due Università partner, come specificato nella convenzione individuale.*

11. Should any research collaboration result in any potential for intellectual property, the parties shall immediately meet through designated representatives and seek an equitable and fair understanding as to ownership and other property interests that may arise. Any such discussions shall at all times strive to preserve a harmonious and continuing relationship between the parties.  
ADD LANGUAGE IN ITALIAN.

12. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties. There are no understandings, agreements or representations, oral or written, not specified herein regarding this agreement. This agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years from the date of the last signature. This agreement shall be reviewed in its final year and may be extended by the written consent of the parties. This agreement may be terminated by either party giving written notice to the other party at least 180 days in advance of the stated termination date. Termination of this agreement shall not eliminate the potential for completion of the dual degree for those doctoral students who will have started their individual convention before the date of termination.  
ADD LANGUAGE IN ITALIAN.

Giuseppe Zaccaria  
The Rector  
of the Università degli Studi di Padova

Jimmy G. Cheek  
The Chancellor  
of The University of Tennessee

Padova, Dated .....

Knoxville, Dated .....