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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April 13, 2012

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

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

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
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

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

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:

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

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.

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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
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.

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 ........