



QAA

QAA Collaborative Enhancement Project:

Exploring Current Practice in the UK in the Development of Collaborative Doctoral Degrees

UKCGE Annual Conference 3rd July 2023

The Project Team

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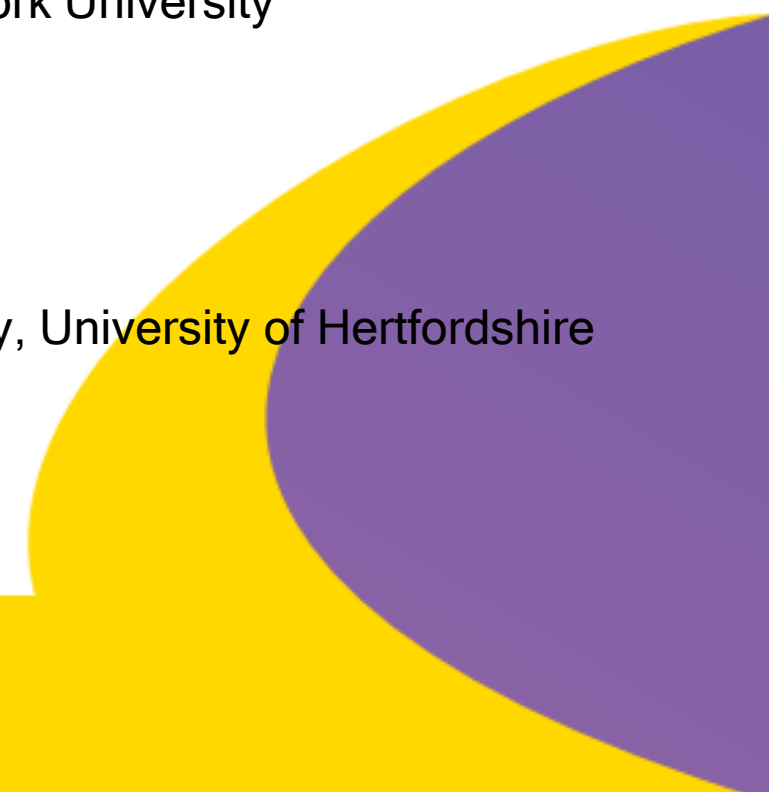
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Why this guide?



PGR Recruitment



Mobility

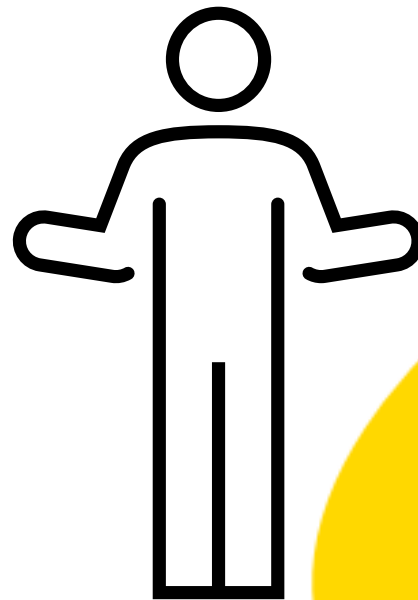


Employability

Why this guide?

PGR recruitment through collaborative programmes usually managed in the margins without the benefit of a standard process or handbook

It was a cathartic experience for the project team!



The process?

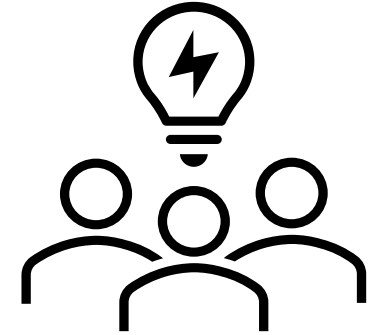
Series of workshops, starting with a two facilitated sessions to explore key areas

5 x online workshops between February - October 2022

Progress updates to QAA, plus feedback from project link contact

In-person Writing Day in Coventry in January 2023

Written Report submitted to QAA in March 2023



Assumptions

It's easy to do, and is an obvious internationalisation tool

If it's been proposed (by Senior Management, Partner, Lead Academic, PGR) then we must implement it...

A collaborative programme must always offer full studentships

Adding a collaborative award to an existing collaboration is easy

Developing Collaborative Doctoral Degrees

Definitions /
Terminology

Regional
Variations

Programme
Development

Legal
Considerations

Funding
Models

Exam Process

Delivering the
Collaborative
Award

Case Study

SCENARIO: A joint doctorate between a Danish and UK university. Both countries have a good shared understanding about what a doctoral thesis should entail but there are a number of areas where practice differs between the UK and Denmark; in particular:

- Entry to a doctorate is typically after a two-year Masters programme
- PGRs are expected to complete a set number of ECTS during their programme
- The supervisor must give permission for the PGR to submit their thesis for examination
- A public defence is required as the final step in the examination process
- All these areas required negotiation and resolution before the joint doctorate could be approved and it was necessary, in a number of cases, to opt for the Danish approach because the doctorate in Denmark is governed by a ministerial order whilst there is more flexibility with respect to the UK doctorate. In the case of the final examination, a UK-style closed viva took place before the public defence.

Developing Collaborative Doctoral Degrees


What are the motivators for...

- Senior Leaders?
- Academic Leads?
- Professional Services Leads?
- PGR?



Developing Collaborative Doctoral Degrees – concluding remarks

Both institutions entering into a collaborative dual award agreement should ensure that;

- There is commitment to the partnership
 - The standard of the doctoral award is protected
 - There is an excellent experience for the PGR
 - There is clarity for all parties on roles and responsibilities
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Further information on the project:

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Thank you to the QAA for supporting this Collaborative
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Further information:

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Questions?

