

Report: University of Copenhagen Visit Report

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1. Executive Summary

A delegation from the Faculty of Humanities met with representatives at the University of Copenhagen on 30th April-2nd May 2018. This visit forms part of our on-going ambition to solidify our partnership with the University of Copenhagen across teaching and research, and follow up on previous visits led by the Vice-President and Dean of Humanities in October 2016, and Associate Dean for Internationalisation in September 2017.

The focus of this visit was to finalise arrangements surrounding the PGR exchange programme, update on the development of the bi-lateral research fund, and explore opportunities for joint PhD initiatives with the three faculties: Faculty of Law, Faculty of Social Sciences, and Faculty of Humanities.

There remains considerable appetite to support the on-going partnership with Manchester from senior leadership at Copenhagen. All three faculties were supportive and interested in developing a joint-PhD initiative – ideally a dual degree programme. Given the considerations and challenges highlighted in this paper, the Faculty will now be looking to create a dual-PGR degree programme across the three faculties that map on to the Faculty of Humanities in Manchester. The University does not currently have regulations for a dual PGR programme, although this has been approved by Senate in principle. Regulations to support the scheme will need to be developed as a priority.

2. Visit Schedule

University of Manchester representatives included:

- Professor Stuart Jones, Associate Dean for PGR
- Dr Helen Baker, Head of Graduate Education & Researcher Development
- Joanne Kaiserman, Head of PGR Support Services and Internationalisation
- Nichola Ellis, Senior PGR Administrator
- Rosie Haynes, International Project Officer

Monday 30 th April
11.00
Jeppe Bjørn Pedersen, Head of Section for PhD Administration Discussion: PGR Exchanges Administration Attendees: Rosie Haynes, Nichola Ellis,

Location: - Øster Farimagsgade 5, Room 4.1.02
Contact: +45 93 56 57 74

15.00

Professor Mette Weir, Associate Dean for Research and External Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences

Discussion: Joint PhD Programme, research fund (see attached agenda re joint PhD)

Attendees: Stuart Jones, Rosie Haynes, Joanne Kaiserman, Helen Baker, Nichola Ellis

Location: 12.1.26, Faculty of Social Sciences, 5D Øster Farimagsgade

Tuesday 1st May (note: Bank Holiday)

12.00

Professor Henrik Palmer Olsen, Associate Dean for Research;

Professor Helle Krunke, Graduate Education, Faculty of Law

Discussion: Joint PhD Programme (see attached agenda re joint PhD)

Attendees: Stuart Jones, Rosie Haynes, Joanne Kaiserman, Helen Baker, Nichola Ellis

Location: Dean's Office, Office 6A-2-05, Karen Blixens Plads 16, 2300 København S, Søndre

Wednesday 2nd May

10.30

International House: Vivian Tos Lindgaard, Head of International Staff Mobility

Discussion: Accommodation, financial, visa, activities etc in support of PGR Exchanges

Attendees: Rosie Haynes, Nichola Ellis

Location: Gyldenløvesgade 11, 1600 Copenhagen V

13.00

Professor Julia Sommerlund, Head of Graduate School, Faculty of Humanities

Discussion: Joint PhD Programme (see attached agenda re joint PhD)

Attendees: Stuart Jones, Rosie Haynes, Joanne Kaiserman, Helen Baker, Nichola Ellis

Location: Dean's Office, Faculty of Humanities, (South Campus) Karen Blixens Plads 8, 2300 København S

15.00 – Travel to Airport

3. Discussions and outcomes

PGR Exchanges:

Jeppé Pedersen is the Head of a centralised function area that oversees the administration for PhD students at the faculties of social sciences, law, theology and humanities. PhD students are classified as staff, rather than students, so the administration technically falls under an HR remit.

Following a conversation that took place in September 2017, a PGR exchange agreement has been signed and the Faculty of Humanities has moved forward with developing a PGR exchange programme with the three faculties at the University of Copenhagen. The Faculty of Humanities launched the scheme to students in December 2017, and our nominated student will be visiting Copenhagen in September 2018.

Due to changes in internal structure and administrative processes at the University of Copenhagen, they are yet to launch their side of the call for the exchange. Despite these challenges, they are now looking to finalise the processes around the exchange and aim to publicise this before the end of the academic year.

Much of the conversation focused on the administrative process and sharing best practice in delivering the scheme. It was agreed that Manchester would share guidance and framework used when promoting the scheme across the Faculty and Copenhagen would now move forward in promoting the scheme.

Collaborative PhD:

Below summaries the main discussion points that were raised across all three of the faculties, and the main concerns surrounding a possible collaborative PhD. Of the three faculties, only the Faculty of Law currently has set up collaborative PhD programmes. These are with the [University of Iceland](#) and with University of Latvia (Riga Graduate School of Law). Although not without its challenges, there was enthusiasm to develop a similar collaborative programme with Manchester - particularly from the Faculty of Social Sciences. After initial discussions, it became clear that a **dual-degree** programme structure would be a preferred option due to the complications that a joint-programme proposed.

There was a general agreement across all three faculties around the main structure of what a collaborative degree programme should look like, with only a few inconsistencies that will be discussed further once a draft framework has been devised. Overall, there was strong compatibility of regulation and process across the two institutes in terms of PGR management to enable the development of a collaborative programme.

A summary of the main points that will require further discussion are below:

- **PhD Structure:** The current degree structure at Copenhagen is 3 (UG) + 2 (PGT) + 3 (PGR). With this in mind, and with the UK PGT being only one year, the PGR structure would ideally need to be a 4 year programme to meet UoC's entry requirements onto the PhD programme.
- **Application process & expected numbers:** There was a clear preference for an open call process, rather than promoting opportunities tied to specific projects. Law did suggested that open calls within certain themes would be another possibility.

At the faculties of Law and Humanities, there was the expectation that any collaborative programme should start small and grow as things establish – suggesting 1-3 students per year in the first instance. However, Social Sciences were much more ambitious and suggested seeing 20+ per year. Their driver for this is to stimulate opportunities to attract greater numbers of international (non-northern European) students.

- **Funding:** PGRs at Copenhagen are classed as staff, and receive a substantial salary (c£36k-£44k p.a. including additional allowances). This salary is still subject to tax, and there is an expectation that PhD students will teach a certain number of hours as part of this.

Although substantially more than UK students receive, tax-free stipends, additional earnings from teaching, and the lower costs of living in Manchester compared to Copenhagen, reduce this gap.

It was generally agreed that whilst students are in each institution, they should receive the corresponding funding of each location. This would ensure equality across all students.

- **Training and pastoral support:** Students have access to additional skills training (how to write a research paper, ethics, time management etc.) and there is additional well-being support for students where needed.

- **Teaching commitments:** As salaried members of staff, all PhD students are expected to carry out a certain number of teaching hours as part of their studies in Copenhagen.
- **Examination practice:** Most PhD submissions are in the form of a traditional thesis; however in some instances it's increasingly common to see students submit 3-4 journal articles. There were some differences to the submission process for each institution, but there was flexibility in regulations on both sides to be able to accommodate these.
- **Completion and submission pending:** nearly all UoC students submit within the expected time frame. Students at Copenhagen do not have the opportunity to have a year to write up. Salary stops at the end of the formal programme.

There needs to be further discussion around the funding structure – given the disparities between each organisation. A provisional model would see that the student would receive the relevant funding at each institution – i.e., Paid salary when at Copenhagen, and relevant stipend at Manchester. This provides an opportunity to 'share the cost' of the studentship.

Given the differences in the examination process of each institution, it was agreed that a dual PhD award, where the student undertakes the examination at both institutions, would allow flexibility, whilst ensuring quality and robustness of each institution's PhD award.

Bi-lateral research fund:

The bi-lateral research fund with Copenhagen is due to be launched in May 2018. As the fund is currently only with the department of Political Science at Copenhagen (but Faculty-wide at Manchester), this trip provided an opportunity to promote the scheme to the Faculties of Law and Humanities. There appeared to be interest in expanding the scheme to these faculties. However, due to changes in their senior leadership team, Law and Humanities were unable to commit to the scheme at this time. This would be revisited over the coming months.

4. Actions

PGR Exchanges Programme:

- PGR/Internationalisation Team to send Jeppe Pederson, Head of Section, copies of the application form, marketing wording and process, and reviewing & selection process to be used as template for the Copenhagen call.

Dual-Degree Programme:

- PGR Team to develop regulatory framework for Dual PhDs on behalf of the university consideration and approval by MDC.
- In consultation with PGRC and MDC, PGR Team to develop a draft agreement for a dual PhD with Copenhagen, based on current collaborative programmes at each institution. This involves developing a funding model to support the programme and agreeing detail on procedural differences between the two institutions.
- Internationalisation team to map complementary research areas where there might be synergies to support a targeted application process

Bi-lateral Research Fund:

- Political Science department at Copenhagen to review most recent strategic call framework and provide feedback.
- Both institutions to proceed with launching the call as agreed.