

13 May 2015

HRK General Meeting: Clear Rules for Cooperative Doctoral Degree Programmes

After discussions in the Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences Member Groups, the General Meeting of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) yesterday adopted a Recommendation for Managing Cooperative Doctoral Degree Programmes. In this recommendation, universities have committed to cooperation with universities of applied sciences being systematically institutionalised when conferring doctoral degrees. Their aim is to work towards clear rules being stipulated in university and doctoral regulations for faculties and departments. An evaluation of how to implement the recommendation is expected by the end of 2018.

"This is an important step towards developing cooperation between universities and universities of applied sciences in relation to the conferring of doctoral degrees can," said HRK President Professor Dr. Horst Hippler.

"Commitment from universities should create more transparency and avoid the impending patchwork rug of differing regulations for cooperative doctoral degree programmes throughout Germany being woven into federal state legislation. This demonstrates remarkable progress for graduates of universities of applied sciences who want to complete a doctoral degree and for relationships between different types of universities, even if there is still a wide range of opinions for independently conferring doctoral degrees at universities of applied sciences."

Cooperative doctoral degrees are degree programmes where universities and universities with the authority to confer doctoral degrees create opportunities for professors working at universities of applied sciences to work as supervisors, reviewers, and examiners for doctoral programmes.

Text of the recommendation