

Guidelines for Joint and Double Ph.D. Degrees

Guidelines with regard to agreements to be signed for the award of joint or double Ph.D. degrees in terms of Statute 3.2 - Provision for the Award of a Joint or Double Degree with another University or Higher Education Institution and the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations, 2023.

Ph.D. degrees may be awarded:

- (a) in the case of a joint degree, jointly on one certificate by all the universities/institutions and shall be conferred at one of the partner universities/institutions as agreed between them; or
- (b) in the case of a double degree, separately by each of the two partner universities/institutions.

Guidelines

1. Agreements should be negotiated by the partner universities normally prior to the student's registration for the Ph.D. degree and preferably not less than three months before the commencement of the Ph.D. studies.
2. There shall be practical benefits arising from the collaborative agreement that are advantageous to the University that may include: strategic networking, access to training and facilities of such research-intensive universities, collaborative research activities in the form of publications, active participation in conferences, and thesis production, as well as the enhancement of the University's international standing.
3. There shall be substantial benefits to the student involved in the collaborative agreement that may include: experience of international research, opportunity for mobility that shall be of not less than one-third of the total duration of the Ph.D. degree or as agreed jointly, access to research facilities and expertise that are not available at the University and the creation of international links with other overseas institutions.
4. The student is required to apply and to register with all the partner universities, and the commencement date shall be the same at all universities.
5. The duration of studies at each university shall be specified in the agreement; at least one-third of the time, or as agreed jointly, must be spent at each university.

6. Adequate supervision should be provided at all universities involved.
7. The enrolment, tuition or bench fees shall be specified in the agreement and are payable at all partner universities in accordance with the length of stay, as also indicated in the agreement.
8. The language of the thesis and of the abstract shall be English, except for a thesis in a modern language, which may be in that particular language but shall also include an extended summary (approximately 5000 words) in English. In all cases, an abstract of approximately 300 words in the language in which the thesis is written is also required.
9. The examination of the thesis, including the physical location of the oral examination and the language for the oral examination shall be specified in the agreement.
10. The composition of the Board of Examiners normally shall include an equal number of examiners from each of the partner universities and shall include examiners external to the partner universities; supervisors shall normally not be members of the Board of Examiners and may only attend the oral examination as observers.
11. Travel, subsistence and examination expenses shall be budgeted in accordance with the planned institutional involvement.
12. The thesis and publications arising therefrom shall make reference to all partner universities.
13. The wording of the award certificates and any other certification shall indicate whether the degree is a joint or double award. One award certificate signed by all the partner universities shall be awarded in the case of joint degrees, whilst in the case of double degrees, each partner university shall award the certificate separately.