

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON THE CO-TUTELAGE OF DOCTORAL THESIS

A co-tutelage partnership will be established in which students will obtain a Doctoral degree from both institutions. The agreement applies to all fields of study common to both institutions.

MANNER OF IMPLEMENTATION

The two partner Universities, as represented by the two thesis supervisors and the administrators for graduate education, will sign an individual thesis agreement for each doctoral student who wants to start the co-tutelage of his/her doctoral thesis. This individual thesis agreement, 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), 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 co-tutelage of the doctoral thesis. The individual thesis agreement will comply with the doctoral degree requirements at both institutions.

The University of Padua will be the institution with administrative responsibility for students who initiate their studies at Padua and The University of Western Ontario will be the institution with administrative responsibility for students who initiate their studies at Western, unless the individual thesis agreement provides otherwise.

The doctoral student starting the co-tutelage scheme will be registered in both Universities, but the administrative responsibility for the student will be assumed solely by one University. The responsibility for the academic supervision of the doctoral project will be joint between the two Universities.

The tuition fees will be paid only to the University that has the administrative responsibility for the doctoral student, unless the parties have agreed to a different sharing of tuition as set out in the individual thesis agreement. The university with administrative responsibility for the student will have responsibility for providing the student with appropriate funding for the duration of the co-tutelage program, up to the maximum period of eligibility for the institution. Students must apply for admission to both institutions and must be offered admission at both institutions.

The doctoral students will carry out his or her research under the guidance of two responsible supervisors, one from each of the Universities, who must be appointed according to the regulations of each institution.

The length of time of the doctorate is up to four academic years. Students for whom the University of Padua is the institution with administrative responsibility will have three years of guaranteed funding. Students for whom the University of Western Ontario is the institution with administrative responsibility will have four years of guaranteed funding.

An individual syllabus will be prepared by the student and the two supervisors, outlining the aims and the overall objectives of the research as well as the plan of investigation to be undertaken. The doctoral student will be required to spend a period of at least 18 months (not necessarily uninterrupted) at the home University and at least 12 months (not necessarily uninterrupted) at the host University. The specific individual thesis agreement for the doctoral student will identify the scheduling of the study periods at the two Universities, with the agreement of the supervisors.

The thesis will be examined at a single thesis defense, with membership as set out in the specific individual thesis agreement. Following a successful final oral examination and submission of the final thesis document, the Università degli Studi di Padova will award the candidate the degree of Dottore di Ricerca and The University of Western Ontario will award the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the respective discipline. Each University will deliver a diploma confirming the award of the doctoral degree, issued according to the specific regulations of each partner institution. This diploma may mention the dual degree program. The official transcripts of the degrees shall indicate the candidate's specialization or discipline, the title of the thesis, and a mention of the international dual doctorate.

The board of examiners of the doctoral thesis will be designated jointly by the two universities and will be normally be composed of: 1) one properly qualified person from the program of study of the student from each of the Universities; 2) one expert external to the two Institutions, chosen by the two supervisors and approved by both Universities and 3) one other qualified person not in the program of study but representing the University hosting the oral examination chosen by the two supervisors and approved by both Universities. The two thesis supervisors (non-voting) will also participate in the examination. The overall number of members of the board of examiners shall not normally exceed 6 persons (including the two supervisors). The exam will take place at the university with administrative responsibility for the student, unless previously agreed in the individual thesis agreement. The expenses for the members of the board of examiners will be charged to the University holding the administrative responsibility of the doctoral student.

The doctoral thesis will generally be written in English, unless previously agreed in the individual thesis agreement. A written abstract in the official languages of the two partner Universities must be provided. The doctoral thesis oral examination will be conducted in English and held at the University with administrative responsibility for the student, unless previously agreed in the individual thesis agreement.

Intellectual property and publication of research findings shall be safeguarded in accordance with the Intellectual Property Statement and details specified in the individual thesis agreement.

The Agreement will be effective from the signature date and will continue implicitly year after year until the request of termination by either party, giving not less than twelve months notice to the other party. The termination of the Agreement will not entail the forfeiture of the co-tutelage for those doctoral students who will have started their individual convention before the date of termination. Either party may request a periodic review of the operation of the agreement at any time.