



## **Manual**

### **Model agreement joint doctoral degree**

#### **What is a joint doctoral degree?**

- A joint doctoral degree is awarded when a) two or more institutions are responsible for a PhD candidate's research; b) a joint doctoral degree-agreement has been signed before the start of the research and c) it has been agreed that the defence will lead to one diploma with two insignia.
- Jointly supervised PhD-research should comply with the Doctoral Regulations enforced at each of the partner institutions.

#### **Why is an agreement necessary?**

- By including mutual obligations and responsibilities in a formal agreement, the division of tasks, the way the collaboration is organized and the location of the PhD defense will be clear from the start for the institutions as well as the PhD candidate.
- The attached model agreement is indicative and it is possible to adjust the agreement to some degree to specific circumstances.

#### **When should an agreement be signed?**

- The agreement should be signed before the start of the doctoral studies.

#### **Who should check and sign the agreement?**

- The agreement should be submitted for a final check to the Dean of the Faculty
- The agreement should be submitted for approval by the Dean of the Faculty to the Doctorate Board
- The agreement will be signed by the Rector Magnificus, the candidate, the supervisor(s) and by the representatives of the participating universities.



## Joint doctoral degree Model Agreement

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### Co-operation Agreement Joint Doctoral Degree

The following parties

[for each partner]:

The University <name>,  
represented by <name>

and

Universiteit Leiden,  
represented by Prof.dr.ir. H. Bijl, Rector Magnificus

and

mr. /ms. <first name> <name>,  
[For candidates from Universiteit Leiden: <name Research Institute>]  
hereinafter 'the doctoral candidate'

hereinafter, the afore-mentioned shall be referred to jointly as 'the Parties',

have,

Account being taken of the Regulations concerning the obtaining of the academic degree of doctor at the <name partner institution>, approved by the ..... on <date>;

In view of the provisions of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW), and in particular article 7.18;

Account being taken of the Leiden University PhD Regulations <year>, laid down by order of the Doctorate Board,

agreed the following:

#### **Article 1. Subject: joint supervision and awarding of a joint doctoral degree**

The partner institutions agree that they shall be jointly responsible for the educational programme of the doctoral candidate, the supervision of his/her doctoral research and thesis, and the joint awarding of the doctoral degree.



The doctoral candidate's personal information:

Name and initials: .....  
Date of birth: .....  
Place of birth: <town>, <country>  
Nationality: .....

**Article 2: Registration**

For the doctoral candidate in this agreement, both institutions are together responsible for the overall administration. The student shall be enrolled at both Universiteit Leiden and [partner university].

**Article 3. Subject of the doctoral dissertation**

The subject of the doctoral dissertation shall be: .....

**Article 4. Supervision of the doctoral candidate**

The doctoral candidate's supervisors shall be:

[for each partner institution]  
At the <name partner institution>  
Name: .....  
Academic unit:  
Position:.....

At Universiteit Leiden:  
Name: .....  
Faculty: .....  
Research Institute: .....  
Position:.....

The supervisors agree to advise the doctoral candidate and perform their roles and responsibilities as thesis supervisors in accordance with the regulations in force in their respective institutions.

**Article 5. Admission to the doctoral programme**

The doctoral candidate has received permission to enrol in the doctoral programme of the relevant partner institutions:

from the university <name> on <date>

from Universiteit Leiden on <date>



#### **Article 6. Content of the doctoral programme**

The content of the doctoral educational programme shall be described in the Training and Supervision Plan, which is part of this agreement.

#### **Article 7. Start and duration of the doctorate**

Registration of the doctoral candidate for doctoral studies under joint supervision takes effect on <specify date>. The period of the doctoral research, including the writing of a doctoral dissertation lasts <number of months>. If necessary, the period may be extended by mutual consent, account being taken of the applicable regulations at each partner institution.

#### **Article 8. Residence and research periods**

The doctoral candidate shall spend substantial research periods in both partner institutions (from 25% up to 50%). The delineation of the research periods shall occur by mutual consent between the doctoral candidate and the supervisors, taking into account the needs of the research and the circumstances of the doctoral candidate. A timetable outline is set out in **Appendix x** of this agreement. Variations to the timetable will be agreed upon between the doctoral candidate and the supervisors.

The doctoral candidate shall be registered by the partner institutions where he/she will take residence, according to their respective rules and regulations.

#### **Article 9. Doctoral dissertation**

The doctoral dissertation shall be written in <language>.  
A translation of the title and a summary of the contents shall be written in <language>.

#### **Article 10. Committee for the doctoral examination**

The examination committee for the doctoral examination (doctoral dissertation and defence of the dissertation) shall be composed by mutual consent of the partner institutions. At least one of the members of the committee is external to the partner institutions.

#### **Article 11. Defence of the doctoral dissertation**

The public defence of the doctoral dissertation shall take place in <language>



### **Article 12. Awarding of the degree**

In the event that the doctoral candidate passes the doctoral examination, Leiden University and <name universities involved> award a joint doctoral degree via a single certificate which carries the insignia of both institutions.

### **Article 13. Additional financial arrangements**

Contributions to the expenses of the doctoral candidate that are related to the doctoral programme and/or to the doctoral defence, shall be discussed and agreed upon by mutual written consent of all Parties.

Financial arrangements shall be described in annex 2, which is part of this agreement.

### **Article 14. Insurance and liability**

The doctoral candidate shall fulfil the obligation to take the necessary steps to be sufficiently covered by international health insurance and other necessary insurance cover.

Neither institution shall have liability for any loss of profit (direct or indirect), or any other indirect, consequential or special losses arising out of or in connection with this agreement, whether in contract, tort, misrepresentation, under statute or otherwise.

### **Article 15. Intellectual property rights**

Intellectual property (IP), including but not limited to (confidential) information, knowledge, results, findings, know how, whether they can be protected or not by intellectual or industrial property rights (such as patent rights), except copyrights on scientific publications, developed on the basis of a joint program undertaken by a candidate during the course of this agreement, belongs to the university where the candidate has generated the IP.

When the IP is generated by two or more partner institutions such that the IP cannot be separated and attributed to one of them, then the partner institutions will have joint ownership in equal shares, unless otherwise agreed upon.

Contrary to paragraph 1 and 2 of this article, if agreements have been made with third parties on the funding of the doctoral degree programme and related IP, Parties shall make a different agreement on the distribution of IP, before the start of the doctoral degree programme. The Parties have informed each other about such agreements before signature of this joint doctorate agreement and shall not conclude such agreements during this joint doctorate agreement without first consulting the other Party/Parties.

In case of joint ownership of IP the partner institutions will have the joint right to determine the commercial exploitation and disposition of such IP and make joint applications for the registration on the same as they jointly deem necessary. Neither Party will disclose to a third party, nor to Parties not relevant to the IP, license, use commercially, register or otherwise deal in such IP without the prior approval of the other partner institution(s). Before any registration or commercialization of any intellectual property takes place, the partner institutions agree to reach a separate written agreement relating to such registration or commercialization, and will include issues such as exploitation rights, revenue sharing and cost sharing. Any publication in relation to such IP will only be possible with the prior written consent of all partner institutions; such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.



**Article 16. Doctoral regulations**

By signing this agreement, the doctoral candidate and the supervisors pledge to act in accordance with the doctoral regulations enforced at each of the partner institutions.

**Article 17. Dispute resolution**

Any disputes arising under or in connection with this agreement which cannot be resolved by amicable discussions between the Parties or mediation by the Deans, shall be resolved by the Doctorate Board of the institution agreed to be responsible for administrative affairs (see art. 2).

**Article 18. Requirement for satisfactory progress**

Continued registration for the doctoral degree, as defined in this agreement, depends on the doctoral candidate making satisfactory academic progress, as defined in the academic regulations of the universities involved. Should any concerns arise, consultation will take place involving both supervisors before the normal procedures at the involved universities are invoked.

**Article 19. Enforcement and termination of the agreement**

This agreement shall take effect on <date> and shall end the day after the doctoral degree has been awarded.

The present agreement can be terminated

- by mutual consent of all Parties involved;
- by the doctoral candidate, in writing, giving a summary of the reasons for the decision;
- by either university, should the candidate be in serious and ongoing breach of the regulation of the university;
- by either university, if the doctoral candidate fails to make satisfactory academic progress and the normal procedures of the university for dealing with the problem have not been effective.

Before termination of the agreement is contemplated, there must be consultation between the Parties. If this agreement is terminated, barring any agreement to the contrary, the unspent portion of any financial aid obtained from an external body must be reimbursed to that body.

Date:....  .....<name candidate>, Doctoral candidate
Date:....



.....<name supervisor>, Supervisor
Date:....  Prof.dr.ir. H. Bijl, Rector Magnificus Universiteit Leiden
Date:...  <name>, supervisor <name partner institution>
Date:...  [representative partner institution] <name> <position> ....<name institution>