

Framework Agreement for the joint supervision of doctoral theses

between

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)

De Boelelaan 1105
1081 HV Amsterdam
The Netherlands

represented by its rector magnificus, Prof. dr. Jeroen Geurts

and

[name partner university and short name]

[address of partner university]

represented by its [title and name of formal representative]

hereinafter, 'the partner institutions'

considering,

- [Relevant legal and institutional regulations of partner university]
- The Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, WHW*), in particular article 7.18;
- Doctorate Regulations of VU Amsterdam (2021), in particular articles 33 and 34.

All parties agree to the following:

1. *Individual convention under this Framework Agreement*

The partner institutions will sign an individual convention for each of the doctoral candidates that wishes to start the joint supervision of a doctoral thesis. This convention, in accordance with the provisions of the articles of this Framework Agreement, will specify:

- a. the name of the doctoral candidate and of the two supervising full professors;
- b. the joint research programme between the universities involved;
- c. the training and supervision plan for the Doctoral candidate;
- d. which University and department will be hosting the doctoral candidate;
- e. the division of study periods between the partner institutions;
- f. details of the final examination.
- g. health and insurance coverage of the doctoral candidate;

2. *Admission criteria*

The doctoral candidate will have to satisfy the entrance criteria of both partner institutions and will be registered in both partner institutions.

3. *Supervision*

The doctoral candidate will carry out the research under the guidance of two responsible supervisors, at least one for each of the partner institutions. Both supervisors have the legal right to propose a doctoral candidate for a doctoral degree.

4. *Length*

The doctoral candidate will be required to spend a period of at least 6 months (not necessarily uninterrupted) at the hosting University. The training and supervision plan for the doctoral candidate will identify the scheduling of the study periods among the two Universities, as agreed upon by the supervisors and the Doctoral candidate.

5. *Research Plan*

An individual research plan will be prepared, including topic, overall objectives of the project, time plan and approach.

6. *Training Programme*

The doctoral candidate will have to satisfy the regulations of the partner institutions regarding the training programme. The Doctoral candidate shall devote at least 30 European Credits (equivalent of 840 hours) to training. The partner institutions may grant an exemption covering all or parts of the training programme.

7. *The Dissertation*

The doctoral thesis will be written in English. It can be written in another language upon permission of the partner institutions.

8. *Doctorate Committee*

With regard to the assessment of the quality of the dissertation, the partners endeavour to compose a joint doctorate committee that satisfies the regulations of both Universities. VU regulations require that, upon approval of the doctoral dissertation by the supervisors, a Doctorate Committee shall be composed that is responsible for assessing the quality of the doctoral candidate's dissertation. This Doctorate Committee shall be composed of at least five members; at least two members of the Doctorate Committee shall be affiliated with a university other than the partner institutions. The supervisors may not be appointed as members of the Doctorate Committee.

9. *Thesis front page*

The front page of the thesis will be set up according to the rules and regulations of the institution where the defence takes place. The front page mentions the joint nature of the degree and both degree-awarding institutions. *[Optional: The thesis will bear two front pages, one for each of the partner institutions, set up according to the rules and regulations of both partner institutions. The home institution has the first front page.]*

10. *Public defence*

Upon approval of the manuscript, the PhD candidate shall be admitted to the public defence. The public defence will take place at one of the partner institutions, under the rules and regulations of the institution where the dissertation is to be defended. Both partners will acknowledge the assessment by the Doctorate Committee of the public defence and the conferral of the degree. The *individual convention* specifies where the defence will take place. The doctoral thesis will be discussed in English.

11. *Degree*

In agreement with the legislation of the Netherlands and in agreement with the legislation of *[specify country partner institution]*, upon successful defence of the dissertation, the partner institutions will confer the following degrees upon the doctoral candidate:

- VU confers the degree of 'Doctor of Philosophy'
- *[Partner institution]* confers the degree of *[specify]*.

12. *Diploma*

Upon successful defence of the dissertation, the doctoral candidate receives a diploma of the institution where the defence has taken place. On the diploma, reference is made to the cooperation between the partner institutions and the joint nature of the degree. The partner that has issued the Diploma, informs the partner university by sending a defence report to the Beadle's office. *[Optional addition: After the public defence, within three Months, the partner institution issues a diploma on which reference is made of the cooperation between the partner institutions and the joint nature of the degree.]*

13. *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. The

written consent is part of the individual agreement (cotutelle).

14. *Insurance*

All doctoral candidates under this Framework Agreement shall comply with the obligation to take the necessary steps to be sufficiently covered by international health insurance and other necessary or mandatory insurance.

15. *Intellectual Property*

The intellectual property rights of the thesis and the publication, the use and protection of the research results shall be safeguarded in accordance with the current regulations of the countries involved in this Agreement.

16. *Dispute resolution*

Any dispute arising under or in connection to this agreement is resolved by amicable discussion between the parties.

17. *Enforcement and period of validity of the agreement*

This Agreement shall be effective from the signature date and shall continue implicitly year after year until the request of termination by either partner institution, giving no less than twelve months' notice to the other party. The termination of this Agreement will not entail the forfeiture of the joint supervision for those doctoral candidates who will have started their individual convention before the date of termination.

18. *Signatures [optional article, to be included if parties agree upon digital signatures]*

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original, and all of which together will constitute one and the same agreement. Parties acknowledge that an original signature or a copy thereof transmitted by facsimile or by PDF will constitute an original signature for purposes of this Agreement.

Signed,

Place, date

Amsterdam, date

[Name partner]

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

[Title of the formal representative]

rector magnificus

[Name representative]

Prof. dr. J.J.G. Geurts