

## **Before the application:**

### **I don't understand the difference between a Joint supervision Thesis and a co-direction of Thesis ? Is it the same thing ? Why is it so difficult to conclude a joint supervision Thesis agreement?**

Joint supervision Thesis and co-direction of Thesis are different in terms of legal, administrative and pedagogical complexity.

- The joint supervision Thesis frame consists of the award **two doctorates/PhDs**, one French, one foreign, for the same thesis work. **Joint supervision Thesis is regulated by the Decree of May 25, 2016** setting the French framework for training and procedures for the award of the national doctoral degree. Several of procedures are described in the Decree and must therefore be included in the joint supervision Thesis agreement. Double doctoral degrees requires that the doctoral student satisfies pedagogical and administrative requirements of both institutions. The process is particularly complex because of the need to harmonize sometimes conflicting legislation for the award of doctorates. In this perspective, joint supervision Thesis is certainly the strictest and most rigorous choice for doctoral mobility.

- A co-direction of Thesis consists in the supervision of the same thesis work by two or more supervisors from different institutions (in France or abroad). **However, only one thesis diploma is issued, the student is registered in only one institution.** Co-direction is not strictly regulated: **its application is at the discretion of the concerned institutions.** Mobilities can be multiple or the student can visit only one time the partner institution.

A co-direction agreement must be set up between UPEC and the foreign institution, but the procedure is much less complex than joint supervision because the student must satisfy the conditions for validation of the doctorate in only one institution. However, it is important to think in advance about mobility especially in financial terms.

### **Can I directly write to the Doctoral School to obtain a joint supervision Thesis template as I did before?**

No. The tested joint supervision template used before had the disadvantage of being interpreted as a form to be completed by the joint supervision Thesis actors instead of being used as a mere helping document to negotiate the agreement itself. The set-up form now includes all the questions that Thesis Supervisors must answer in order to create the joint supervision agreement but the writing of the

## Joint supervision : F.A.Q.

contact : [doctorat@u-pec.fr](mailto:doctorat@u-pec.fr)

agreement itself will be done by the Research and Development Department (Structuring and Scientific Strategy Unit).

### **A doctoral student has obtained individual funding (joint supervision scholarship) to come France for a doctorate in joint supervision, should he (or she) still apply?**

Yes, obtaining joint supervision funding does not give a de facto right to joint supervision agreement. Obtaining (or at least seeking) doctoral funding is a pre-condition for applying for a joint supervision Thesis.

### **I have obtained Campus France PHC (Partenariat Hubert Curien) funding, should the PhD Student I am recruiting in joint supervision still apply ?**

Yes, obtaining PHC Campus France funding does not mean that you will be accepted in joint supervision thesis. You must apply for the applicant who has been selected for funding as soon as possible. In this perspective, the Research and Development Department (Structuring and Scientific Strategy Unit) must be informed (by e-mail at [doctorat@u-pec.fr](mailto:doctorat@u-pec.fr)) of the joint supervision project, ideally at the time of submission of the PHC funding application. It is especially important to declare the joint supervision project in case the timetable of the envisaged PHC funding does not correspond to the timetable of the submission of joint supervision applications.

## **During the application:**

### **I am in negotiation with the Partner Institution. How can I be sure that the doctoral student is exempt from registration fees at one of the two institutions?**

The joint supervision agreement must specify in which institution the registration fees will be paid for each year of the joint supervision. Proof of payment of school tuition fees at the Partner Institution will be required at the time of registration if any exoneration is requested in the set up form. The agreement must also specify the conditions under which a social coverage is provided to the doctoral student in each country. In France, civil liability insurance is also required and the details of this insurance must be included in the joint supervision agreement. Please note that on the French side, it is not possible to exempt doctoral students from paying the CVEC, which is a mandatory pre-requisite for registration. It is important to inform joint supervision candidates of this.

Important: The absence of re-registration in one of the two institutions during the specified period planned in the joint supervision agreement will automatically stop the joint supervision Thesis.

Request for exemption from tuition fees without justification will be rejected.

## **After registration:**

### **The doctoral student is registered. When can he/she come to UPEC?**

The joint supervision Thesis involves a principle of reciprocity between UPEC and the foreign university. If the application is submitted to UPEC, this means that UPEC is the "pilot" institution of the joint supervision agreement, and therefore the mobility of doctoral students will be, at least initially, from the partner institution to UPEC.

**For this reason, the joint supervision agreement must be signed before the PhD student arrives at UPEC.** This means that the doctoral student cannot do any mobility at UPEC before the agreement is signed.

It is recommended that the doctoral student spend at least 30% of the total duration of his/her Thesis in the country of each institution, with at least 12 months at UPEC. The periodicity of mobility in each institution is determined by the Thesis Directors.

### **We wish to modify the joint supervision agreement, is it possible?**

Yes, any modification of the initial agreement (change of direction, of place of defense, of establishment for payment of registration fees...) must be the subject of an amendment. The Doctoral School at the request of the Thesis Direction, must contact the 3S unit of the DRV ([doctorat@u-pec.fr](mailto:doctorat@u-pec.fr)) in order to obtain an amendment that corresponds to the new situation. A favorable opinion from the Doctoral School concerning the modification to the agreement will be requested.

**Important :** Due to the Covid-19 crisis, it is possible to tolerate some modifications of the date of presence in the institution. However, any change of date must be regularized before the end of the academic year by an amendment, even after that change has taken place.

### **I would like to extend the Joint supervision of the doctoral student, how do I proceed?**

If the thesis is longer than the initial duration, an amendment to the joint supervision agreement must be written. The DRV can provide a template for amendment.

In consequence, that from the fourth year of registration of the doctoral student at UPEC, an amendment to extend the joint supervision will have to be established.

A modification request form for extension must be requested and sent to [doctorat@u-pec.fr](mailto:doctorat@u-pec.fr)

- At the same time, the Thesis Directors must contact the partner to obtain the agreement for an additional year.

- The Doctoral School must approve the derogatory re-registration request (the report and the positive opinion of the individual follow-up committee are necessary at this stage).

- An amendment for extension is automatically sent to the Thesis Director before the doctoral student is registered.

The amendment request for a joint supervision agreement is made at the initiative of the Doctoral Schools to the 3S unit.

In regard to the procedure, the request for extension and amendment to the joint supervision agreement must be anticipated and the request made three months before the planned registration in the 4th year. If registration in the 4th year is made without a validation extension request, the joint supervision agreement will be automatically obsolete.

Important: It may be possible that the original agreement includes a fourth year according to the partner country's legislation on doctoral studies. This must be specified in the joint supervision request and this duration will be that of the original agreement.

The total duration of the joint supervision may not be longer than 6 academic years, except in the case of justified break or suspension.

### **The doctoral student wishes to abandon his joint supervision. How to proceed?**

Registration in a joint supervision Thesis is based on a collaborative project between two institutions. The absence of registration in the Partner Institution will have as a consequence a refusal of registration at UPEC.

If the doctoral student wishes to abandon the joint supervision at UPEC, he/she must contact his/her Doctoral School, which will notify the 3S unit about what to do with the registration.

### **The doctoral student can defend. How to organize the defense?**

A single defense whose conditions must be specified in the agreement is organized in one of the two universities with a mixed jury of at least 4 and no more than 8 members respecting relative parity

The modalities of the Thesis defense are defined by article 18 of the decree of 25 May 2016 and are considered as the default modalities in the organization of the defense.

In the case of an incompatibility between the legislation of the two countries, a compromise must be found during the negotiation of the terms of the joint supervision by the Thesis Directors.

The defense of a joint supervision Thesis must be declared to the 3S unit at least 6 months before the planned date of the defense in order to anticipate any problems in setting up the defense.

The jury's composition and the authorization of the Thesis defense must be approved by both institutions, even if the defense takes place in the foreign institution.

The costs of the mobility of jury's members must have been discussed between the Thesis Directions and the Doctoral School and must be included in the Joint supervision agreement.



UNIVERSITÉ  
PARIS-EST CRÉTEIL  
VAL DE MARNE

## Joint supervision : F.A.Q.

contact : [doctorat@u-pec.fr](mailto:doctorat@u-pec.fr)

In accordance to French legislation, the Thesis defense in joint supervision framework can only take place after the third registration of the doctoral student at UPEC.

### **The doctoral student has defended his thesis. What happens now?**

After the single defense two doctoral diplomas are delivered: the PhD degree for the French university, and the equivalent for the foreign university.

Both diplomas will be delivered simultaneously to the joint supervision doctoral student.