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**Cooperation Agreement for the Joint Supervision (Cotutelle) of Doctoral Theses**

 **between**

**The University of ……………………..**

**and**

**The Universidad de Extremadura**

Prof. ............................... , acting as legal representative and President of the University of ………..................., a Public Institution for Higher Education, located at ……………….

And Prof. Antonio Hidalgo García, Rector of the Universidad de Extremadura, located at Edificio Rectorado, Avda. de Elvas s/n, 06071 Badajoz, Spain, representing and acting on behalf of the same, by virtue of the powers vested in him by Organic Law 6/2001 for Universities of December 21, and Decree 65/2003, of May 8, which governs the bylaws of the Universidad de Extremadura

**PURSUANT**

To the regulations applicable to Doctoral Studies of both Universities:

**DECLARE**

That both Universities have a shared interest in implementing collaboration in the Doctoral Programmes of both Institutions, and therefore it is of the utmost importance to promote mobility of faculty members and doctoral candidates from their respective Universities. As a consequence, both parties show an interest in joint supervision of doctoral theses.

For which, both parties shall approve the present Cooperation Framework Agreement which shall be governed by the following terms:

**Article 1**

**Objective**

This Agreement is established to allow students following the .................. Doctoral Programme of the University of ………………. and the ................. Doctoral Programme of the Universidad de Extremadura to carry out curricular activities related to research or any other scientific aspect at the partner University so that they may be granted a Doctoral Degree by both the University of ……………………. and the Universidad de Extremadura.

**Article 2**

**Doctoral Candidates**

Doctoral candidates shall:

1. Comply with the requirements for admission to doctoral studies according to the current provisions of the University of origin.

1. Enroll at both Universities, assuming the enrollment fees at the University of origin, where the doctoral thesis shall be defended, in accordance with the Regulations of the University of …………….. or with those of the Universidad de Extremadura, being exempt from enrollment fees at the partner University.
2. Make a research stay for a period of not less than six months:
3. Students of the ......Doctoral Programme of the Universidad de Extremadura may apply to come under this Cooperation Agreement provided that they conduct their research, in preparation for their doctoral thesis, at the University of .................. (the partner Institution), for a period of not less than six months under the joint supervision of a faculty member from the Department of ............. of the University of .................
4. Students of the ..............Doctoral Programme of the University of .............. may apply to come under this Cooperation Agreement provided that they conduct their research, in preparation for their doctoral thesis at the Universidad de Extremadura (the partner Institution), for a period established by their University, under the joint supervision of a faculty member of the ................Doctoral Programme of the Universidad de Extremadura.
5. The terms of the research stays shall be established by the supervisors of the doctoral thesis and the stay shall be of a single uninterrupted period or be divided into several, according to the thesis project and the workplan approved by the Institution of origin and annexed to the Specific Cooperation Agreement.
6. Comply with the deadlines for registering, turning in, depositing and defending the thesis established by both Universities, bearing also in mind the maximum time allotted for completion of the thesis from the date of signing the Specific Cooperation Agreement for the Joint Supervision (Cotutelle) of Doctoral Theses, in accordance with the current legislation in each country.
7. Assume their responsibility for healthcare coverage in case of illness or accident during the stay at each of the Universities. Futhermore, they shall also be responsible for acquiring a repatriation insurance policy in case of illness or accident during the stay, according to the Regulations of each University.

**Article 3**

**Supervision of the Thesis**

1. Every jointly supervised thesis shall be supervised by not less than one Faculty member from each University.
2. Each thesis supervisor shall perform their duties in accordance with the current bylaws in their Institution

1. In the case of a need to replace a thesis supervisor, it shall be reported and approved under the current terms established by the Institution of origin, and the partner Institution shall be informed.

**Article 4**

**Specific Cooperation Agreement**

A Specific Cooperation Agreement proposed jointly by both Institutions shall be drawn up for each doctoral candidate, in which it shall state: the doctoral candidate’s full name, the title of the thesis, the supervisors from both Institutions, the amount of time allotted to conduct research at the partner Institution, the University where the thesis shall be defended, and the curriculum programme so that accreditation may be granted by the University of ........... The thesis project and its corresponding workplan shall be attached to the Specific Cooperation Agreement.

**Article 5**

**Manuscript Language and Defense of the Doctoral Thesis**

1. The doctoral thesis may be written in either of the two languages of the two countries or in English, according to the thesis project and the current Regulations of the University where it will be presented for defense.
2. The doctoral thesis shall contain a summary of the contents in the language in which it is written and another in the national language of the country in which it is defended.

**Article 6**

**Presentation and Printing of the Thesis**

The thesis shall comply with the current provisions and the legal requirements of the University of Origin of the doctoral candidate, specifically in so far as the printing, identification of the autor/s and defense are concerned.

On the front cover of the dissertation it shall state that it was carried out under this Cooperation Agreement, and the University logo of both Institutions may also be printed.

**Article 7**

**Doctoral Thesis Defense and Examining Committee**

1. The defense of the doctoral thesis shall be held at the Candidate’s University of origin and governed by the current Regulations of each Institution.
2. The Examining Committee shall be appointed in accordance with the specific Regulations of the Institution at which it shall be defended and shall include not less than one academic staff member from the University of ................... and one from the Universidad de Extremadura, bearing in mind that in Spain thesis supervisors are not permitted to sit on the Examining Committee.
3. The University where the defense takes place shall bear the fees and expenses directly related to the Examining Committee.

**Article 8**

**Intellectual Property Rights**

When Intellectual Property Rights exist, State Legislation and the Regulations of the University where the thesis is submitted shall apply.

**Article 9**

**Issuance of the Doctoral Degree Certificate**

1. Once all requirements to obtain the Doctoral Degree have been fulfilled, according to the current Regulations of the University where the thesis was submitted, and once the defense has been approved in a public act, the candidate may apply for the Doctoral Degree Certificate from both Universities, after payment of their respective fees.
2. The Diploma, certificates and diploma supplements issued by the University of .................. or by the Universidad de Extremadura shall explicitly state that the diploma has been awarded under the terms of the Cotutelle Cooperation Agreement.

**Article 10**

**Entry into Force**

1. This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature and remain in force for ……years.
2. It shall be automatically renewed for one year periods up to a maximum of 4 renewals as long as neither of the two parties files a complaint, which shall be notified to the other party not less than six months prior to termination.
3. The Cooperation Agreement may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of both parties.
4. The termination of the Cooperation Agreement shall not affect any thesis already begun under the Specific Agreement.

In Witness Whereof, this Cooperation Agreement is signed in duplicate at the place and on the date indicated below.

*Place:………….. Date : ……………20….*

By the University of………………. By the University of ………………..

Signed…………………………………… Signed…………………………….