

## Bi-national Joint Doctorate (*Cotutelle de Thèse*) at Goethe University - A Factsheet for PhD Candidates -

### Introduction: What is a Bi-national Joint Doctorate?

In a bi-national joint doctorate, the supervision of the doctoral thesis as well as the award of the doctoral degree are performed in conjunction at Goethe University and at an international (partner) university. PhD candidates perform their research at both institutions, but they submit only one thesis on one dissertation topic to only one thesis committee for both universities. After the successful completion of examination procedures, both universities award **one** joint doctoral degree.

### Requirements and Advantages of a Bi-national Joint Doctorate

In principle, any doctoral candidate at Goethe University can consider a bi-national joint doctorate. Admission requirements may vary amongst faculties, in line with respective doctoral regulations. A bi-national joint doctorate may be an interesting option for you, if

- the partner university has unique expertise for your dissertation topic and/or
- you wish to expand your international experiences and contribute to scientific exchange between the partner universities.

You should consider the trade-off between the added value and the necessary extra effort. You need adequate proficiencies in two or more languages and you will have to spend at least a third of your research time at each of the universities, with travel costs at your own expense (though possibly supported by special scholarships).

### Steps to Arrange for a Bi-national Joint Doctorate

If you are interested in a bi-national joint doctorate, your supervisor is your first contact person. She/He will most probably support you, if she/he or the faculty already know matching universities and experts abroad and if the bi-national joint doctorate harbors added scientific value. For each individual bi-national joint doctorate, several administrative details will have to be arranged, with the support of your supervisor as well as the faculty and the central administration.

To start with, you have to be admitted as a PhD candidate by the doctoral examination board of the faculty, and you should make sure that the doctoral regulations of the faculty allow for the option of a bi-national joint doctorate. Subsequently, both universities have to settle a number of details of the procedures in a contract which will be signed by supervisors and officials from both universities and by you. Negotiations can be lengthy, but research can start ahead of a final settlement. One year after your admission as a PhD candidate, the contract should be completed.

### Support and Advice Regarding Bi-national Joint Doctorates

Your most important contact persons are your supervisors and the colleagues in charge at the faculty who admitted you as PhD candidate. They should in turn consult GRADE, the Goethe Research Academy for Early Career Researchers, regarding the special features of bi-national joint doctorates. GRADE also supplies a contract template.

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