

January 16, 2011

Conferring a Joint Doctoral Degree with a University Overseas

General

1. In order to strengthen the internationalization of the Hebrew University, in order to encourage cooperation with leading universities overseas and in order to expose our doctoral students to scientists of the highest caliber from around the world, the Hebrew University has approved the conferring of joint doctoral degrees with universities outside of Israel.
2. The regulations below determine the principles and guidelines according to which the Hebrew University will enter agreements (hereinafter – the Agreement) towards granting joint doctoral degrees to research students (hereinafter – joint research students) with other universities that are authorized to grant a doctoral degree.

Responsibility

3. The Authority of Research Students will be responsible for signing the Agreements and will ensure that they conform to the study and research programs of the joint research students according to the guidelines below, to the rules which are applicable in the other universities and to the Statutes of the Research Students of the Hebrew University.
4.
 - a. A request for signing a bilateral agreement will be considered by the Faculties' Admission Committees (for research students) of the relevant field and its recommendation will be submitted for approval by the Authority for Research Students.
 - b. Throughout the first three years of operation of these guidelines, signing an agreement will also require the approval of the Rector.
5. Applications will be considered based on the following criteria:
 - a. The dissertation supervisor from the other institution will be a prominent scientist in his field (his curriculum vitae and list of publications will be attached).
 - b. The supervisor will belong to a Department (or Institute) which is leading in the field and has the physical and scientific infrastructure to carry out the proposed research (evidence towards the fulfillment of these requirements will be provided by the Department and attached to the application).
 - c. That same institution offers a course or courses relevant for the dissertation which supplement those being given at the Hebrew University.

Admission

6. For students studying at the Hebrew University, the Hebrew University will be the Prime University and the other institution will be the Host University. For students studying at the other institution, the other institution will be the Prime University and the Hebrew University will be the Host University.
7. The joint research students must meet the admission criteria for doctoral studies in both institutions.
8.
 - a. Admission of a joint research student will be formalized in an agreement which will be signed on behalf of the Hebrew University by the Chairperson of the Research Authority. Furthermore, if the need arises, the University will consider upgrading the agreement to become a general agreement of cooperation and exchange between the two institutions.
 - b. A separate agreement will be signed for each joint research student.
9. The periods that the student will spend in each of the institutions will be specified as much as possible in the agreement.

Supervisors

10. At least two dissertation supervisors will be appointed for each joint research student, at least one from each institution. The supervisor from the Host University must be authorized to mentor research students in that institution and must meet the requirements in the Prime University's statutes regarding mentoring research students.

Course of Studies

11. A joint research student will carry out the research work with joint instruction by the supervisors.
12. The topic of the dissertation agreed upon at the date of signing will be stated in the agreement.
13. As part of the study requirements towards a joint doctoral degree, the student will study at least one course in the Host University that is recognized by the Prime University, preferably a course that is not offered by the Prime University.
14.
 - a. The deliberations for approving the student's research program and study program will take place in the Prime University.
 - b. The discussions will be conducted in the English language. The supervisor from the Host University will participate in the discussion, where necessary this will be done through video conference. The minutes of the meeting will be approved by all the supervisors.
15. The structure of the dissertation will be according to the regulations of the Prime University.
16. The research program, doctoral thesis and all accompanying documents during the period of study will be written in the English language, unless writing in another language is required because of the

topic of the dissertation.

17. Whenever required, the decision to terminate a student's program will be made according to the rules of the Prime University.

Duration of Studies for the Degree

18. The duration of studies will be determined in an agreement. This period will not deviate from that determined by the Statutes of Research Students of the Hebrew University.
19. The joint research student must spend and study at least one year, and not more than two years, at the Host University.
20. a. Joint research students will be registered as students in the Prime University throughout their doctoral studies and in the Host University in the years when studying there.
b. Joint research students will be exempt from paying tuition or any compulsory payment to the Host University.

Evaluating the Dissertation

21. The dissertation will be submitted simultaneously to the Authority for Research Students at the Hebrew University and the appropriate body at the other university.
22. All supervisors must approve the dissertation prior to its submission to other referees.
23. The process of choosing referees and the process of evaluating the dissertation will be conducted according to the regulations at the Prime University. Included among the referees there will be at least one who is not from either of the two institutions signed on the agreement.
24. If a defense is carried out, it will be conducted in the English language. All evaluations will be written in the English language.

Awarding the Degree

25. A joint research student, who meets all the study requirements as detailed above, will receive a doctoral degree in accordance with the agreement. As a rule, two separate diplomas will be awarded. Each diploma will note which is the Prime University and which is the Host University. In both diplomas there will be a note that a similar diploma was also awarded in the other institution. Where necessary, a joint diploma may be awarded.

Intellectual Property

26. Rights to the knowledge developed in the framework of the research will belong equally to the Prime University and the Host University unless agreed otherwise in advance between the two institutions, supervisors and the research student. Any publication of the research results requires the agreement of the supervisors and the research students. It must be mentioned in the publication that the research was carried out in the framework of joint degree studies in the two institutions.

Financial Support

27. It is possible to include in the agreement the details of financial support provided for the students during the course of their studies, the funding details of their travel expenses to the Host University and their living expenses there.

Health Insurance

28. The medical insurance for the period of the student's stay in the Host University is the responsibility of the student.

Monitoring

29. The Authority for Research Students will examine the above regulations from time to time and will initiate change in them as needed. The Authority will also evaluate the success of the agreements signed with institutions, departments and supervisors.
30. At the end of three years, the Standing Committee of the Senate of the Hebrew University will discuss and decide on continuing its operation. Prior to this discussion, the Authority for Research Students will submit a detailed report on the agreements signed during the course of this period.