

November 26, 2014

Studies for a Joint Doctoral Degree with a University Abroad

General

1. In order to strengthen the international ties of the Hebrew University and in order to encourage cooperation with leading universities abroad and in order to expose our doctoral students to scientists of the highest caliber from around the world, the Senate of the Hebrew University has approved the conferring of joint doctoral degrees with universities outside of Israel.
2. These regulations determine the principles and guidelines according to which the Hebrew University will enter Agreements (hereinafter – the Agreement) with other universities that are authorized to grant doctoral degrees, towards granting joint doctoral degrees to research students of the Hebrew University (hereinafter – joint research students).
3. The principles that apply to an Agreement shall be detailed furthermore. Those that shall apply to the Agreement at the level of institution or academic unit and of course for every individual student from that institution / unit and those that shall apply in case of an individual Agreement.
4. Every Agreement at the level of the unit or the level of the institution shall be re-examined once every five years, as well as the number of joint research students and other elements of the decisions about the Agreement.

Academic Approval

5. The Authority of Research Students will be responsible for signing the Agreements and will examine them in accordance with academic standards in coordination with the Vice Rector who is in charge of cooperative programs with other institutions.
6. In the first three years of implementation of this document, every Agreement with an institution shall be approved by the Standing Committee. If the Agreement is at the level of an individual student, or at the level of the unit, the Authority shall consult with the Doctoral Field Committee before approving the Agreement.
7. An application will be considered based on the following criteria:
 - a. The dissertation supervisor from the other institution is a prominent scientist in his field (his curriculum vitae and list of publications will be attached).
 - b. The Department or Institute in which the joint doctoral research will be carried out 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 also be attached to the application).

- c. That institution offers a program of doctoral studies that is equal to the doctoral studies at the Hebrew University in their quality and scope.

Course of Studies

- 8. For students of the Hebrew University, the Hebrew University will be the “Home University” and the other institution will be the “Host University”. For students of the other institution, the other institution will be the “Home University” and the Hebrew University will be the “Host University”.
- 9. In general, the rules of the Home University shall apply to everything related to the research studies in all stages (admission; course of studies; scope of courses; follow-up on progress; writing of the doctoral dissertation and the process of evaluation of the dissertation).
 - 9.1 Admission to studies in the framework of the joint doctoral program is conditional on entitlement to a Master’s degree or studies parallel to that degree, such as meeting the requirements for doctoral studies in the framework of the direct track.
 - 9.2 The panel of referees shall include appropriate representation of the two institutions and shall include at least one referee from outside of each of the partner institutions. If the Host University is obligated by directives from outside the institution, then consideration will be given as to whether to hold the evaluation process as customary in the Host University.
- 10. At least two supervisors will be appointed for the research student, one from each institution. The supervisor from the Host University must be authorized to mentor research students in that institution. The names of the supervisors will be noted in the Agreement. The joint research student will carry out a single research work under the joint guidance of the supervisors.
- 11. A research student may, and even should study courses in each of the partner institutions subject to the rules customary in each institution.
- 12. Approval of the research program and the study program of the student shall be carried out at the Home University.
- 13. All accompanying documents during the period of studies shall be written in the English language (or the Hebrew language).
- 14. A decision to terminate studies shall be taken, if necessary, in accordance with the rules of the Home University.

Duration of Studies for the Degree

- 15. The Agreement shall detail, to the extent possible, the periods which the student will spend at each of the institutions.

16. The joint research student must spend time and attend educational programs for an accumulated period of at least one year at the Host University.
17. A joint research student will be registered as a student at each of the partner institutions throughout all the years of his studies for the joint degree.

A joint research student in the framework of the institution's Agreement will not pay tuition or any other obligatory payment to the Host University.

Doctoral Dissertation

18. The doctoral dissertation, in its final version following approval, shall be submitted to each of the partner institutions according to their rules. The dissertation shall include an abstract in the English language and in the language in which it is written, if other than English.

Awarding the Degree

19. A joint research student who meets all of the requirements for receipt of a doctoral degree, shall receive a doctoral degree from the two institutions. The degree shall be awarded in two separate diplomas, while each diploma will note which is the Home University and which is the Host University. In both of the diplomas there will be a note that a similar diploma was also awarded in the other institution. If there is a need to award one joint diploma, this diploma will be according to the version and format customary in the Home University while taking into account the fact that the studies were held in the framework of a joint doctoral program with the Host institution.

Intellectual Property

20. Patent rights for the knowledge developed in the framework of the research shall be that of the Home University and the Host University, according to the Agreement between the institutions, the supervisors and the student. One must mention in the publication that the research was carried out in the framework of studies for a joint degree in the two specific institutions.

Financial Aid

21. The Agreement may include the manner of financial support of the student in the course of his/her studies as well as the manner of funding his/her travel expenses to the Host University and expenses of his/her stay there.

Medical Insurance

22. It is the student's responsibility to have a valid medical insurance covering him/her during the period of his/her stay in the Host institute.

Monitoring

23. 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.
24. At the end of operation of this procedure for 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 and the lessons learned during the course of this period.