



Double PhD Degree (Cotutelle) Guideline

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An agreement for joint supervision of a PhD student, also known as *Cotutelle*, is one of the forms for international collaboration that is offered at Skoltech. It aims to let a PhD student conduct his/her research, get co-supervision and finally receive two degrees from both Skoltech and a partner university, preparing and defending only one thesis.

Key Advantages

- Partner's expertise and access to research facilities;
- Shared funding;
- Two degrees as the result of a joint research project and one PhD thesis;
- Input to Skoltech international recognition.

General Requirements

Any Skoltech PhD Student can benefit from a Double PhD Degree program, if his/her research project is supported by a supervisor at Skoltech and at a partner university, and the following general requirements are met:

1. The PhD student must have a **different supervisor** at each university;
2. The PhD student must have a period of stay at both universities. The period spent at Skoltech normally has to be not less than 2 academic years in total;
3. **Funding** for the period of studies and research **abroad should not be provided by Skoltech**;
4. The PhD student must be **enrolled in both universities**. The training part must satisfy the requirements (credits and publications) of both universities;
5. The PhD student must prepare **one thesis** as a result of the research work conducted at two universities. The Thesis is written in **English**;
6. PhD defense can take place either at Skoltech or at a partner university;
7. The PhD student must defend the thesis in oral form in front of a joint assessing body (also known as PhD defense jury). The **compositions of the Jury** shall **comply with Skoltech PhD Defense policy** and be approved by a partner university (at least 5 members, co-Chair from Skoltech, co-Chair from Partner, at least 2 members external to both universities);
8. The PhD Student shall receive **a degree from each university**.

Timing and important steps towards Double PhD Degree

It's recommended to initiate the discussion before the start of the program or in its early stage and have the agreement finalized within the first year of PhD studies. The agreement itself can be signed only after a PhD student is officially enrolled in both universities.

BEFORE AND EARLY IN THE PROGRAM	STEP 1: Negotiation of collaborative research, funding	STEP 2: Discussion and revision of the cotutelles	STEP 3: Formal approval and signing of the agreement
	<i>Responsible: Supervisors</i>	<i>Responsible: Doctoral Studies Office, Legal, Partners, Supervisors, Dean of Education</i>	<i>Responsible: Doctoral Studies Office, Partners, Dean of Education, President</i>
MAIN PERIOD	STEP 4: Main period of the double-degree program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collaborative research project • thesis preparation and writing • fulfillment of both PhD programs requirements 		
FINAL STAGE	STEP 5: The thesis is recommended for the defense by both institutions	STEP 6: Joint PhD thesis defense	
	<i>Responsible: PhD student</i>	<i>Responsible: PhD student, Doctoral Studies Office, Supervisors, Partners</i>	

OUTCOME:

Two degrees are awarded
