

Introduction to concepts of doctoral programme and joint doctoral programme

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Doctoral programme

- An organised set of possible courses and research opportunities within one or more disciplines.
- For example an inter-disciplinary doctoral programme in computer linguistics or a single-discipline programme in early modern literature.

Researcher

Knowledge in a specific area.

Knowledge on how to develop new knowledge.

Researcher are members of a

- Higher Education Institution.
- Research Institution.

Doctoral (PhD) candidate

A person conducting research and/or aiming to submit a thesis with the goal of acquiring a doctoral degree.



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PhD

The term 'PhD' stands for 'Doctor of Philosophy'. In most cases, a PhD:

- Is an advanced postgraduate degree involving three or more years of independent research on an original topic.
- Is carried out with the support of one or more expert academic supervisors.
- Results in a thesis that offers a *significant original contribution to knowledge*.
- Confers the title 'Doctor' upon successful candidates.
- Is the highest academic degree a student can achieve and is considered the *de facto* entrance qualification for a career in academia.

Transferable skills

Skills learned in one context (for example research) that are useful in another (for example future employment whether that is in research, business etc.). They enable subject- and research-related skills to be applied and developed effectively.

Doctor Values

- Ability to understand complex systems
- Creativity
- Initiative
- Ability to work in groups
- Leadership ability
- Knowledge in your field of activity
- Writing
- Public speaking
- Research
- Teaching and training
- Managing data and information
- Networking
- ...

Joint doctoral programme

A joint doctoral programme is a doctoral degree awarded by two (or more) different institutions, who share the responsibilities of supervising, coordination and examining a researcher's work towards a PhD degree.



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Joint doctoral programme

Most often joint-PhDs are a means for two (or more) universities to strengthen a research collaboration.

These universities are often home to the top research experts in a particular topic.



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Types of joint doctoral programmes

There are at least two ways to understand a joint doctoral programme:

- Type 1: Pre-defined project (which happened to be done jointly at two or more universities)
- Type 2: Joint-PhD with two universities of your choice which do not already have a formal agreement

First type

- Several universities, from the same or different country, organize a joint doctoral programme.
- They share training activities, supervisors and operating rules.
- The doctoral student enrolls in only one university and can have a supervisor from a single university.
- The doctorate degree is a joint degree of all universities.

Example of the first type

Joint PhD programme in mathematics of the

- University of Almeria
- University of Cádiz
- University of Granada
- University of Jaen
- University of Málaga



What are the benefits

- Critical mass: in doctoral education, the size and number of resources (equipment, facilities, students, teachers, supervisor, etc.) needed to produce top-quality research.
- A joint doctoral programme makes it possible to reach the critical mass that the different universities would not have separately.

Second type

- In this case is also called co-tutelle doctorate.
- Is a doctoral degree awarded by two different institutions, who share the responsibilities of supervising, coordination and examining a researcher's work towards a PhD degree.
- The two institutions must be compulsorily from different countries

Example of the second type

- A doctoral candidate decides to do a doctoral thesis with a supervisor from the University of Granada and another supervisor from the University of Ghent.
- The two universities reach an agreement of cooperation between both doctoral programmes, the PhD supervisors (one at each institution) and the respective institutions of higher education specific for the doctoral candidate.

University
Of Ghent

University
of Granada



Example of the second type

The doctoral candidate:

- must have an approved PhD research proposal at Granada and Ghent University,
- must have a supervisor in each cooperating institution,
- must formally enroll at each institution and therefore pay the tuition fee,
- must carry out research at each institution for at least six months,
- must defend the PhD degree in one of the partner institutions.

Example of the second type

The doctoral candidate:

- obtains two diplomas, one by each university, but there is only one PhD thesis defence.

What are the benefits

- Access to complementary facilities and resources.
- Exposure to two cultural approaches to research.
- International student mobility.
- Enhanced acquisition of research and transferable skills, such as negotiation skills, use of videoconferencing, adaptability...
- Better networking opportunities for future job prospects.

Concluding remarks

- There are several ways to implement a joint doctoral program.
- Different forms have different objectives.
- The first type is probably the most useful for Uzbek institutions at this time.