

Information about double and joint doctorates and joint supervision doctorates

An article concerning the joint supervision doctorate has been added as of September 2017 to the chapter on double and joint doctorates. This is now the preferred option for collaboration. Double and joint doctorates are the exception.

In case of a double doctorate there are two doctoral degree certificates referring to each other. In case of a joint doctorate there is one certificate bearing two logos. In both cases, a cooperation agreement is signed prior to the first doctorate trajectory or as soon as possible after its start, but not later than one year after the doctorate trajectory has commenced. This is first submitted to the Doctorate Board for a decision. The Doctorate Board has recently given mandate to the Dean Graduate School to take these decisions. After a positive decision, the cooperation agreement between both universities involved will be signed by the Rectors of the two universities.

In principle four years is required for a doctorate at TU/e, and this applies to double and joint doctorates as well. In the case of both a double and a joint doctorate approximately half of the required time is spent at each of the two participating universities. The supervisor at the other university has to be a full professor. Only in special cases the Doctorate Board can deviate from these standards.

A joint supervision doctorate is initiated on the basis of an agreement between the university and one or more (Dutch or) foreign universities, which can be signed by the deans of the departments involved prior to the first doctorate trajectory or as soon as possible after its commencement, but not later than one year after the doctorate trajectory has started. This is a doctorate at TU/e or at one of the affiliated partner institutes which involves, in one or more stays, a total of 6 to 12 months spent at the partner institutes.

From 1 September 2021 the obligation is introduced for doctoral candidates who want to do a double or joint doctorate or a joint supervision doctorate to upload the agreement between TU/e and the other university concerned in Hora Finita as soon as it is signed. By introducing this rule these candidates are known in an early stage of their special trajectory.

More information can be found in Chapter IX and the commentary on the Regulations governing the conferral of doctor's degrees.

A Model-agreement for double or joint doctoral degrees is available. You are requested to use that in negotiations with other universities.

The agreements have to be checked by the educational lawyer mr.drs. J.J.W.C. van Dinther, The agreement has to be approved by your departmental dean before the approval by the Dean Graduate School and in exceptional cases the Doctorate Board.

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Chapter IX. Conferral of a double or joint doctorate, as well as the joint supervision doctorate

Art. 28. Pursuant to an agreement concluded between the university and a (Dutch or) foreign university, which must be signed by the Rectors of both universities involved prior to the first doctorate trajectory, but not later than one year after the doctorate trajectory has commenced, a doctoral candidate may take a doctor's degree at each of the two universities. The conditions under which such a double or joint doctorate can take place are regulated further in this agreement. The agreement must be uploaded to Hora Finita by the doctoral candidate as soon as it is signed.

Art. 29. The conditions as referred to in Article 29 concern the following items in any case:

- * the research is carried out under the responsibility of two promotors, one at each university;
- * the dissertation or technological design is defended first at the university before a mixed Doctorate Committee, proportionally composed of members on behalf of the two universities, as well as one or two independent members from outside both universities; if desired by the other university, a second defense ceremony can take place there; the Rector can (under certain conditions) give permission to deviate from this rule;
- * the dissertation or technological design is written in (Dutch or) English;
- * the preparation time for the dissertation or technological design is divided proportionally between the two universities in alternating periods. Deviations from this are permitted only if the reasons therefor are stated.

Art. 30. Insofar as the agreement referred to in Article 29 does not provide otherwise, the double doctorate will take place at the university pursuant to the provisions of the university's Regulations governing the conferral of doctor's degrees.

Art. 31. As proof that the doctor's degree has been conferred on the basis of a double doctorate, the certificate referred to in Article 27 will include a declaration that the conferral of the doctorate is taking place in cooperation with the other university. The other university involved will also provide a certificate with an identical declaration. In case of a joint doctorate, one certificate bearing the logos of both universities will be provided.

Art. 31 a. A joint supervision doctorate is initiated on the basis of an agreement between the university and one or more (Dutch or) foreign universities, which can be signed by the deans of the faculties involved prior to the first doctorate trajectory or as soon as possible after its start, but not later than one year after the doctorate trajectory has commenced. The agreement must be uploaded to Hora Finita by the doctoral candidate as soon as it is signed.

The joint supervision doctorate is a doctorate at TU/e or at one of the affiliated partner institutes, which involves, in one or more stays, a total of 6 to 12 months spent at the partner institute. If the doctorate is at TU/e, the doctoral candidate will have a TU/e promotor, as well as a (co-)promotor at each of the partner institutes. The university's regulations governing the conferral of doctor's degrees are further fully applicable. If the doctorate is at a partner institute, the doctoral candidate will have a promotor there and a TU/e (co-)promotor. The partner institute's regulations governing the conferral of doctor's degrees are further fully applicable. A Doctoral Project Description will be drawn up at least six months before the stay at the host university. This will be sent for approval to the Dean of the Graduate School.

Commentary

TU/e has the possibility (in exceptional cases) of both a double and a joint doctorate because joint doctorates are not yet legally possible in all countries. Cooperation partners may have a preference for one of the two types. In case of a double doctorate there are two doctoral degree certificates referring to each other. In case of a joint doctorate there is one certificate bearing two logos. In addition, TU/e offers the possibility of a Joint Supervision Doctorate. This is a doctorate at TU/e or at one of the affiliated partner institutes that involves a stay of 6 to 12 months in total at a “host” university (or universities); in the dissertation it is stated that it concerns a Joint Supervision Doctorate with reference to the university (or universities) involved, and an attachment is added to the certificate with an indication of the host arrangement of the joint universities involved. A “Doctoral Project Description” is drawn up at least six months before the stay at the “host university”. This is sent for approval to the Dean of the Graduate School.

In principle four years is required for a doctorate at TU/e, and this applies to double and joint doctorates as well. In the case of both a double and a joint doctorate approximately half of the required time is spent at each of the two participating universities. In special cases the Doctorate Board can deviate from this standard, provided that the quality of the dissertation can be assured by other means, and that the doctoral candidate has sufficient time to meet these quality standards. Considerations for these “special cases” can be, for instance: the quality of the partner university, the instruction that the candidate has already followed at the PhD level, available funding to finance any possible extension, and/or research that the candidates have already done during the Master phase.

Education must definitely form part of the doctorate trajectory (e.g. professional skills), but must not comprise more than 30 ECTS.

If there are more parties involved in a consortium, TU/e accepts responsibility only for those doctorates in which TU/e is actually involved. When a TU/e doctoral candidate has spent a year elsewhere, this is a Joint Supervision Doctorate. This is not a double or joint doctorate but a TU/e doctorate. When a doctoral candidate from another university has stayed here for one year, it is a doctorate of that other university, in which case it can also involve a Joint Supervision Doctorate. In principle, then, there are three possible scenarios:

- 1) Eindhoven bears the primary responsibility for the research,
- 2) Eindhoven, together with the partner institute, bears joint responsibility for the research and
- 3) The partner institute bears the primary responsibility for the research.

Only in the first two cases can an Eindhoven double or joint doctorate be conferred.

In the third case only a Joint Supervision Doctorate is possible.

In case of double or joint doctorates a cooperation agreement is sent to the Doctorate Board for a decision prior to the first doctorate trajectory or as soon as possible after its start, but not later than one year after the doctorate trajectory has commenced. In the case of a positive decision by the Doctorate Board, the cooperation agreement between both universities involved is signed by the Rectors of both universities.

Draft agreements are checked by the educational lawyer prior to their being put on the agenda of the Doctorate Board, and are then added to the agenda of the Doctorate Board by the Dean of the Graduate School.

The Rector may allow deviations from the above provisions.

In principle the dissertation is defended first at TU/e (a requisite condition for joint doctorates for government financing). The Rector can grant permission to deviate from this rule.