

# International *Cotutelle* of thesis



Doctoral programs are periods of work and creativity that offer young researchers real professional experience. Candidates learn the craft of research while actually researching in an international context.

The irreversible internationalization of higher education programs has spurred France's doctoral departments—and their parallel structures abroad—to develop programs for the joint supervision of doctoral research and dissertations. Such programs carry the advantages of bilateral scientific cooperation—and the participation of 2 expert advisers to shape and guide the original work of doctoral candidates.

International operates under the terms of a formal agreement governing all facets of a candidate's doctoral program, from admission and enrollment to the defense of the dissertation and the award of 1 or more Doctoral Degrees.

## ► International *Cotutelle* of thesis

*Cotutelle* is a mechanism that promotes mobility among doctoral candidates while encouraging scientific cooperation between French and foreign research teams. Candidates conduct their research under the oversight of, and with guidance from, a dissertation adviser from each of the 2 countries involved in the program. Working jointly, both advisers provide a full measure of supervision for the candidate. **The candidate conducts his research in the 2 countries under the terms of the agreement governing the program. This agreement may introduce more flexibility in the definition of these terms and allows to adapt the general framework for each student therefore improving the proper progress of the doctoral studies.**

## ► What degree does the graduate receive?

*Cotutelle* operates under the terms of **an agreement between 2 institutions, 1 of which must be French**. The rules and procedures are the same as those of French doctoral programs and doctoral programs within the foreign university. The 2 universities recognize the validity of the joint supervision and of the degree awarded to successful candidates—a doctoral degree from the French institution and an equivalent degree from the foreign university.

**There are 2 possibilities for the granting of the degree:**

- The successful candidate may receive **a single Doctoral Degree conferred jointly** by the 2 institutions. The diploma will carry the name of the degree in 2 languages. (For example, Doctorat en littérature française and PhD in French literature).
- The candidate may receive **2 separate degrees**, 1 from each institution. In this case, each diploma will bear the name of the degree issued by that institution, will mention that the dissertation has been jointly supervised and will specify the name of the partner university.

In both cases, **the dissertation is defended in just 1 of the institutions** participating in the joint supervision agreement, as determined by the 2 research advisers.

## ► How does one enroll?

Prerequisite degree: Master's Grade (300 ECTS credits) or equivalent.

- Specify the subject of the thesis with the agreement of the two dissertation advisers
- Candidates must **apply for admission** to a French doctoral department and a partner institution abroad.
- They must **have a dissertation adviser at each institution prepare 2 copies of a joint supervision agreement**. The agreement may be a preexisting agreement between the 2 institutions or a **new agreement reached specifically for the applicant's dissertation**.
- They must **enroll in the 2 universities**: The agreement exempts the candidate from the payment of tuition in 1 of the 2 institutions upon presentation of a receipt for payment of tuition and fees at the other university for the year in question. The agreement also specifies the terms of the candidate's insurance coverage in the 2 countries.

**In France, applications are examined the director of the Doctoral department and reserach services of the university.**

Lists of French doctoral departments, research centers and laboratories are available on the CampusFrance website: [www.campusfrance.org/en>Research in France>Doctoral Schools directory](http://www.campusfrance.org/en>Research in France>Doctoral Schools directory)



### ► **How does *Cotutelle* work?**

- Each year during the preparation of the dissertation, the student registers in the two universities, paying tuition at one university.
- During the period of joint dissertation supervision medical insurance is provided by the entity named in the joint supervision agreement. Arrangements for the candidate's housing in the partner country and for financial support are also spelled out in the agreement.
- The time required to prepare the dissertation must be divided between the 2 institutions in alternating periods (minimum duration of one year in France). The typical length of a doctoral program in France is three years.
- The publication, commercialization, and protection of the dissertation and research results are handled by the candidate's 2 host laboratories in accordance with the procedures specific to each country.

### ► **How are jointly supervised dissertations defended?**

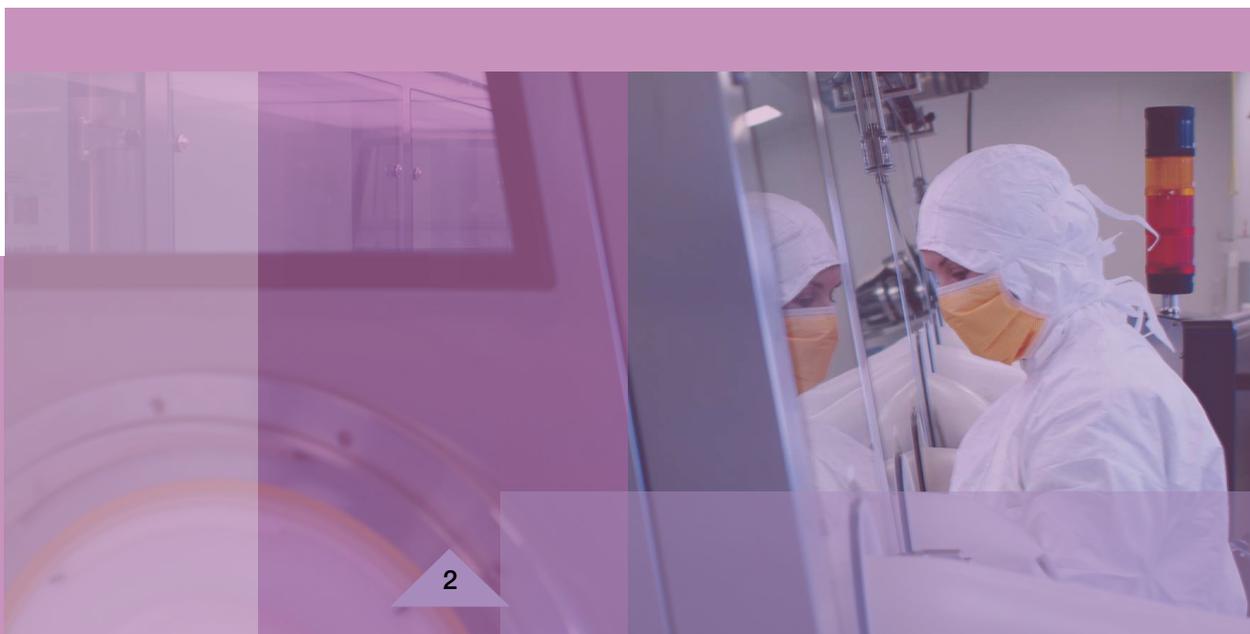
The dissertation jury is formed by common agreement of the 2 partner universities, with balanced representation of both institutions. The jury should include the 2 dissertation advisers, as well as scientific experts from outside the 2 institutions. Expenses connected with the defense often are met from a special, dedicated fund. Per diem expenses of the jury members are paid by the university at which the dissertation is defended. Jury members' travel expenses are borne by the other university in accordance with institutional policies.

### ► **In what language is the dissertation written?**

If the national languages of the 2 partner institutions are different, the dissertation may be written in any language accepted for doctoral dissertations at either of the partner universities. The candidate must, however, prepare an abstract of the dissertation in the language of the other partner university. He or she must either defend the dissertation or summarize it orally in French.

### ► **Which documents are required to enroll?**

- A Curriculum Vitae;
- Copies of degrees, with certified translation;
- A dissertation plan;
- Evidence of a financing commitment (nature and amount) for the entire dissertation period;
- During the first year, joint dissertation supervision agreements signed by representatives of the 2 universities. (Model agreements are often available for download from university Web sites.)





## ► How are International *Cotutelle* of thesis funded?

A joint supervision agreement may be implemented without a dedicated source of funding. Nevertheless, because programs last three years, candidates are strongly advised to obtain financial assistance from French or foreign sources.

### → French government mobility grants for International dissertation supervision program

International students admitted to a doctoral program in France may have information about joint dissertation from the French embassy in their country of origin. While the dissertation is being prepared, the candidate spends alternating periods in France and the country of origin. The portion of the dissertation research period spent in the partner country is not funded by the French government. *While in France, the candidate is covered by the French national social insurance system and receives a travel stipend.* Applications for French government grants for joint dissertation supervision may be obtained from the French embassy in the partner

### → Grants for joint dissertation supervision specific programs (examples):

- France-Mexico Doctoral Program/CONACYT: [www.conacyt.gob.mx/index.php/becas-y-posgrados](http://www.conacyt.gob.mx/index.php/becas-y-posgrados)

### → French government grants

French government grants are awarded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international Development for academic programs, internships, and language study in France. Most grants are awarded by the culture and cooperation sections of France's embassies and consulates abroad. Prospective doctoral candidates from all countries are invited to contact France's diplomatic posts for information about such grants well in advance of their proposed program and in all cases before arriving in France. Available information covers conditions for the award of grants, the timetable for selection, and the application forms to be used.

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/> > France > Studying in France > How can the project be funded? > Grants issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Eiffel Excellence Grants (doctoral component)

This program is designed to support the international recruiting efforts of French higher education institutions. Institutions that sponsor candidates for grants agree to admit those candidates should they win an Eiffel grant. The program operates in three broad fields: the sciences, economics and management, and law and political sciences. Grants make possible a 10-month period of mobility in the course of a joint doctoral program (preferably during the second or third year of doctoral study). The Eiffel program is designed to help French institutions attract the very best international students.

<http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/eiffel>



Candidates are not normally admitted to French doctoral departments without a secure source of funding for the period of doctoral study. Various types of visas are granted depending on the type of financing the candidate obtains. Financial assistance must be sufficient to support candidates for three years, during which time they are expected to devote their full attention to research. Complete information on financial assistance may be obtained from French doctoral departments.

**CampusFrance's online grant search engine contains information on more than 400 sources of full or partial funding for doctoral studies or a post doc: [www.campusfrance.org/en](http://www.campusfrance.org/en) >Finance your program**



## European Joint Doctorates (EJD)

Horizon 2020, the European Union's research and innovation program, sponsors initiatives within the framework of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) to support research careers for Europeans and others. Under MSCA, European Joint Doctorates (EJD) are replacing Erasmus Mundus doctorates. The EJD program is open to all international students.

Within the framework of Horizon 2020, the European Union's research and innovation program, Joint European Doctorates (EJD) are replacing Erasmus Mundus doctorates (as the latter are completed). The EJD program is being implemented under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA), which encompass several initiatives to support research careers for Europeans and others.

The EJD program offers international students a scholarship grant (typically of 36 months' duration) for doctoral training at a **European** institution of higher education of the student's choice. The institution must be part of a consortium of at least 3 institutions from 3 different countries. One institution is designated as the coordinator of the doctoral program. Grant recipients may be of any nationality. The candidate must not have lived in the host country for more than 12 months during the 3 years preceding enrollment in the EJD.

The amount of the grant is approximately €3,110 per month, depending on the cost of living in the host country, plus a fixed mobility stipend of €600 per month and a possible additional allowance based on the candidate's family circumstances.

Candidates who complete the program receive a joint doctoral degree delivered by at least two institutions. The candidate receives at least two national doctoral diplomas, each bearing the name of the issuing institution. Candidates should apply directly to the coordinating institution.

Each EJD program maintains its own selection criteria, admission procedures, and deadlines.

### Note

Also available under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions are European Industrial Doctorates (EID).

- Information on EJDs and Erasmus Mundus doctoral programs involving a French institution: <http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/node/6236>
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>





	Mobility	Enrollment and registration	Defense	Language of dissertation	Special funding	Degree awarded
<b>Cotutelle of thesis</b>	<b>1 research unit in France and 1 abroad</b>	2 universities	At 1 of the 2 universities	<b>Language defined by the agreement</b> French abstract	For travel related to dissertation defense	- either a single <b>doctoral degree conferred jointly conjointement</b> by the 2 institutions (joint degree) - or 2 separate <b>doctoral degrees, de Docteur</b> 1 from each institution (dual degree program)
Joint supervision	<b>At least 1</b> French research unit	<b>1 university</b>	At 1 of the 2 universities	Usually in French; sometimes in English	No	<b>French doctorate</b>
<b>European Joint Doctorates (EJD)</b>	A partnership of <b>2 or more research units</b> operating as a European consortium governed by a formal agreement	<b>In each of the partner universities</b> as stipulated in the mobility agreement	At the university of the dissertation adviser	Usually in English, but each consortium has its own requirements. French abstract	Doctoral grant the among of which is set by an agreement specific to each program	<b>Joint degree dual degrees, or multiple degrees,</b> depending on the program

**Note!** The term **Research unit** may denote: a research center, a host team, a research institute, a laboratory, a combined research unit (affiliated with a national research organization such as CNRS), or a service and research unit affiliated with a doctoral department.

## Extended-stay scientific visa

This extended-stay scientific visa is designed for holders of a Master-level degree or higher who wish to visit France to conduct research. The visa entitles the holder to apply, after one year, for a 3 or 4-year residency permit "Passeport talents" marked "scientifique".

## Doctoral contracts

Doctoral contracts have a term of three years and offer full social benefits as well as a minimum gross monthly salary of €1 700. Doctoral contracts are open to Master's grade students who wish to continue on for a doctorate. The number of contracts is limited. Admission is determined on the basis of the applicant's academic record and an interview before a faculty panel from the doctoral department in which the student wishes to enroll.

## GOOD TO KNOW

### JOINT SUPERVISION FOR DOCTORATE (*CODIRECTION*)

When faculty responsibility for directing a candidate's research is shared, candidates have the opportunity to conduct their research under the supervision of 2 dissertation advisers. The responsibilities of dissertation adviser or co-adviser may be assumed by the following persons:

- **University professors or faculty members of equivalent rank, French or foreign (who need not be accountable to the French Ministry of Higher Education)**, or, more generally, by personnel working in institutions of higher education, public research organizations, and research foundations who are qualified to direct research projects. The agreement to share responsibility for dissertation supervision may be entered into by 2 French universities, 2 doctoral departments at the same university, or 2 research units within a single doctoral department.
- **By other individuals who possess a doctorate**, chosen for their scientific expertise by the principal dissertation adviser upon the recommendation of the director of the candidate's doctoral department and after consultation with the institution's scientific council. The individual selected need not be affiliated with a research unit. He or she may be of any nationality.

#### Features

- **Pooling the expertise of 2 advisers and 2 research units.** The candidate may receive financial or in-kind assistance from 2 research units or 2 doctoral departments and apply for mobility grants from the international offices of the 2 institutions involved.
- **A diploma that bears the name and title of both of the advisers** who supervised the research.
- **A shared supervision agreement** signed by the 2 advisers. Although the candidate is enrolled in a single institution, he or she is affiliated with 2 research units and/or 2 doctoral departments.
- **A single defense** that takes place usually at the university in which the candidate is enrolled.
- **A dissertation written in French** (except in doctoral departments that accept dissertations written in English with a French abstract).
- **A doctoral program without any special funding mechanism**, subject to all of the financial arrangements that normally apply at the doctoral level.

## USEFUL LINKS

**To locate a Doctoral Department** - [www.campusfrance.org/en](http://www.campusfrance.org/en)>Research in France>Doctoral Schools directory

**To find financial aid** - <http://www.campusfrance.org/en>>Finance your program

**CIFRE agreements**, Information on industrial agreements for training through research on the site of the ANRT (National association for technological research) - <http://www.anrt.asso.fr>

### Hosting and associations of doctoral candidates and research scholars

- ADI (Associazione Dottorandi e Dottori di Ricerca Italiani, Italian association of doctoral candidates and doctors of research): <http://www.dottorato.it>
- Association Nationale des Docteurs ès Sciences (ANDÈS, national association of doctors of science) - <http://www.andes.asso.fr>
- Confédération des Jeunes Chercheurs (CJC, union of junior researchers) - <http://cjc.jeunes-chercheurs.org>
- Eurodoc (European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers) - <http://www.eurodoc.net>
- Fondation Kastler: <http://www.fnak.fr>
- NAGPS National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (United States) - <http://www.nagps.org>
- NAP, National Postdoctoral Association (United States) - <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org>
- Precarios, Federación de Jóvenes Investigadores (federation of junior researchers, Spain) - <http://www.precarios.org>
- THESIS, Doktoranden-Netzwerk e.V. (doctoral candidates' network, Germany) - <http://www.thesis.de>

**ABG-L'intelli'agence, promoting career opportunities for young PhDs:** <http://www.intelligence.fr>

**CNRS, the national center for scientific research:** <http://www.cnrs.fr>

**EURAXESS, devoted to the mobility of research scholars and scientists in Europe:** [http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index_en.cfm)

**Information on visas: Contact information for French consulates abroad:**

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaires-et-adresses-du-maedi/>

**Ministry of Higher Education, and Research:** <http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr>

### Online doctoral dissertations

- Doctoral Departments Catalog and thesis on line: <http://ecolesdoctorales.campusfrance.org/phd/dschools/main>
- *Atelier National de Reproduction des Thèses* - (ANRT, national workshop for the reproduction of dissertations) <http://www.diffusiontheses.fr/anrt-catalogue-theses-doctorat.html>
- *BIU Santé*, Catalog of tesis : [http://www2.biusante.parisdescartes.fr/theses/theses\\_rech.htm](http://www2.biusante.parisdescartes.fr/theses/theses_rech.htm)
- Thèses.fr, central dissertation database - <http://www.theses.fr/sujets/>
- *L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire* (Pluridisciplinary Open data) HAL: <https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr>
- Media library at the Institut Pasteur - Defended dissertations in medicine, pharmacy, and multidisciplinary areas: <http://www.pasteur.fr/infosci/biblio/>
- SUDOC, Système Universitaire de Documentation - Agence bibliographique de l'enseignement supérieur Supérieur (university documentation system / higher education bibliographic agency) - <http://www.sudoc.abes.fr>

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

- [www.campusfrance.org/en](http://www.campusfrance.org/en)>Research in France

A section devoted to research in France: news, statistics, research briefs by scientific area, grant and scholarship programs, online catalogue of doctoral departments and dissertation topics

- **CampusFrance's online grant search engine:**  
[www.campusfrance.org/en](http://www.campusfrance.org/en) >Finance your program

