

**Memoranda of Justus Liebig University, Giessen****25/03/2013****7.41.00 No. 1**

By-laws for Bi-national Doctorates

**By-laws  
of Justus Liebig University, Giessen  
for Bi-national Doctorates  
of 19 December 2012**

**Version information**

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**Tabular representation of version information**

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## Section 1 Bi-national doctorates

(1) These regulations govern the procedure for conducting joint doctorates with foreign faculties or universities (bi-national doctorates/cotutelle proceedings). The provisions of the doctoral degree regulations of Justus Liebig University, Giessen apply in addition, unless otherwise stipulated in the following paragraphs.

(2) Upon successful completion of a bi-national doctorate, the doctoral candidate shall be entitled to use either the German doctoral degree or the foreign doctoral degree in the Federal Republic of Germany and in the other country participating in the bi-national doctorate.

Either of the two doctoral degrees may also be used in third countries, provided that the use of foreign doctoral degrees is permissible in the third country.

(3) A bi-national doctorate does not entitle the holder to a double doctoral degree.

The doctoral degree holder is free to change his or her decision at any time as to which of the two doctoral degrees he or she wishes to use.

## Section 2 Cotutelle agreement

(1) A bi-national doctorate is carried out on the basis of a written cotutelle agreement between Justus Liebig University, Giessen and the participating foreign institution for the individual doctoral project in accordance with the attached model agreement (Annex 1).

The cotutelle agreement is concluded by the chairperson of the competent doctoral committee and requires the approval of the president in addition to the agreement of the respective office of the dean.

In particular, the agreement must specify the leading institution, name the supervisors, specify the language of the dissertation and disputation, and specify the requirements for proof of language skills. Furthermore, provisions must be made for residence at the participating universities and the conduct of the oral examination.

If academic achievements are required of the doctoral candidate, their mutual recognition shall be provided for in the agreement.

The formal requirements for the dissertation must be defined and harmonised, taking into account the regulations in force at Justus Liebig University and the foreign institution.

(2) In addition, taking into account section 3, provisions must be made covering details of the type of joint supervision and the form of the joint examination, where applicable, the required achievements in the doctoral studies, the application for admission to both institutions, the enrolment at one of the two universities, the administrative and doctoral fees incurred, the publication of the dissertation and the health insurance of the applicant as well as the travel expenses.

## Section 3 Requirements

(1) A bi-national doctorate may be carried out in adherence to the following requirements:

1. The applicant for a bi-national doctorate must fulfil the acceptance requirements of both the Justus Liebig University and the participating foreign institution and provide evidence of eligibility.
2. The doctoral performance must consist of a written part (dissertation) and an oral part (disputation or viva voce).
3. The dissertation must be supervised by at least one professor from Justus Liebig University, Giessen and one from the foreign institution.
4. The oral doctoral examination (disputation or viva voce) shall be conducted by the leading institution with appropriate participation of the other institution.
5. The doctoral certificate must refer to the joint doctorate and make it clear that the doctoral degree awarded may only be used in the German or foreign form.

## Section 4 Language

- (1) The dissertation may also be written in a language other than German or English – with the consent of both supervisors and the Giessen doctoral committee.
- (2) If the dissertation is not written in German or English, it may be submitted in another language if a summary of at least five pages in German or English is included.
- (3) The oral doctoral examination (disputation or viva voce) is usually conducted in the language of the country in which it is taking place or in English. Divergent provisions shall be included in the doctoral agreement pursuant to section 2 (1).

## Section 5 Oral doctoral examination, board of examiners

- (1) The oral doctoral examination (disputation or viva voce) shall be conducted by the leading institution with appropriate participation of the other university.
- 2) If the oral doctoral examination takes place at Justus Liebig University Giessen, a joint board of examiners shall be formed taking into account the relevant doctoral degree regulations.

In doing so,

- the foreign supervisor, and
- at least one other researcher from the foreign institution

are to be appointed as examiners. The competent doctoral committee shall decide on exceptions.

## Section 6 Assessment

- (1) The doctoral performance shall be assessed both according to the rules of the relevant Giessen doctoral degree regulations and according to the corresponding rules of the foreign institution.
- (2) If, according to the rules of one of the parties, the doctoral performance is assessed as insufficient overall, the bi-national doctorate shall be deemed to have failed.

However, the doctorate may be continued as a national proceeding by the participant whose members on the joint board of examiners have positively assessed the doctoral performance.

## Section 7 Doctoral certificate

- (1) Once the doctorate has been successfully completed and the deposit copies (Section 8) have been submitted, the doctoral candidate shall receive a doctoral certificate consisting of a part written in German and a part written in the national language of the foreign institution (model certificate, Annex 2) as well as an English version.

Each part contains the overall grade determined by the joint board of examiners.

Both parts of the certificate shall bear the seal of the participating faculty(ies) as well as the participating institutions.

Each part contains a reference to the bi-national doctorate, in particular to the right to use either the German or the foreign form of the doctoral degree.

- (2) If the two grading scales for the overall grade differ from each other, the respective overall grades shall be entered in the two parts of the certificate.

In this case, the applicable grading scale shall be reproduced in each of the two parts of the certificate.

- (3) If, according to the regulations of the foreign institution, the doctoral certificate is issued by the state alone, a doctoral certificate of Justus Liebig University shall also be issued.

In this case, the foreign state certificate and the Giessen certificate must contain a note stating that each of the two certificates is only valid in conjunction with the other and that the doctoral degree was awarded on the basis of a bi-national doctorate.

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(4) After receiving the two-part doctoral certificate, the doctoral candidate is entitled to use either the German doctoral degree or the corresponding foreign title.

The German doctoral degree acquired in compliance with the above regulations may be used in the Federal Republic of Germany without further authorisation.

### **Section 8 Publication of the dissertation**

The regulations of the Justus Liebig University shall apply to the publication of the dissertation, in particular to the submission of deposit copies; this does not affect the right to use the foreign title, taking into account the rules applicable in this regard.

### **Section 9 Withdrawal of the doctoral degree**

(1) As a rule, the competent body of the leading institution shall decide on the withdrawal of the doctoral degree awarded in a bi-national doctorate on the basis of the locally applicable national law and after hearing the competent body of the other participating institution.

(2) If the competent body of the leading institution withdraws the doctoral degree, this decision shall apply only to the doctoral degree awarded by the faculty of the leading institution.

In this case, the two-part bi-national doctoral certificate must be withdrawn by the leading institution.

(3) The other participating institution shall be notified of the withdrawal; it shall decide on its own authority whether the doctoral degree it has awarded shall also be withdrawn.

(4) If the participating institution has grounds justifying the initiation of withdrawal proceedings, it shall request the leading institution to initiate such proceedings, stating the relevant grounds for suspicion.

If the leading institution does not comply with this request, the participating institution may initiate withdrawal proceedings under its own authority.

Subsections 2 and 3 shall apply accordingly.

### **Section 10 Entry into force**

These by-laws shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the Memoranda of Justus Liebig University, Giessen (MUG); at the same time, the By-laws of Justus Liebig University, Giessen for Bi-national Doctorates of 07 June 2006 shall cease to be in force.

Prof. Dr Joybrato Mukherjee  
(President)