



## **COTUTELLE DE THESE / CROSS-BORDER DOCTORATE/BINATIONAL DOCTORATE**

Known under the abbreviated name of "Cotutelle", German and international doctoral candidates at Leipzig University have the option of a "cross-border" or "binational" doctoral procedure.

On the following pages you will find information on the suitability of such a doctoral procedure as well as a schedule for the necessary steps to conclude an agreement on the last page.

### **A BINATIONAL DOCTORATE IS AN OPTION IF:**

- you want to ensure academic ties to both countries involved,
- it is unclear in which country you would ultimately like to work later,
- you would like to work internationally, or
- you have chosen a research focus that is strongly connected to the other country.

### **BINATIONAL DOCTORATES MAINLY RELATE TO:**

- the supervision of the thesis,
- research or work stays for the completion of the thesis at the two universities involved, and
- the involvement of external supervisors in the final doctoral procedure.

### **What you should be aware of before embarking on a binational doctorate:**

A binational doctorate does not mean that the doctoral degrees awarded by the participating universities can be carried simultaneously after successful completion of the doctorate. Doctoral candidates receive **one doctoral degree** jointly awarded by two universities in two different countries. Therefore, doctoral candidates must decide whether to use **one or the other** doctoral degree when later using the title. The doctoral certificates to be issued should refer to the joint doctoral procedure so as not to give the impression that two different academic theses and two parallel doctorates were involved. Furthermore, before starting the procedure, you should be aware that there may be different conditions for the award of the doctoral certificate or for the publication of the thesis, which must also be fulfilled according to national regulations.

The preparation of the binational agreement is initially the responsibility of the doctoral candidates and their supervisors. The assistants to the dean support this

process by providing a sample form and a checklist for the necessary contents of the agreement. They can provide advice on the formulation of the agreement. The International Centre of Leipzig University also supports this process.

## **BINATIONAL DOCTORAL PROCEDURES AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY**

The doctoral degree regulations of the faculties must be adhered to in order for the doctoral candidate to be accepted and allowed to complete the doctoral procedure at Leipzig University. These regulations also contain regulations for cross-border doctorates.

Binational doctorates are not possible at the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

## **IF YOU HAVE ALREADY STARTED A DOCTORATE AT A UNIVERSITY OUTSIDE GERMANY,**

and your supervisor at your "home university" recommends a binational dissertation, then you should work with him:her to find a supervisor at Leipzig University. Existing academic and personal contacts often help here. Present your planned thesis to the Leipzig professor and ask for a written confirmation of supervision. Once you have this, you can apply for a doctorate at Leipzig University. Further information on doing a doctorate in Leipzig can be found in this brochure

If you meet all the formal requirements, you will receive a letter of admission, which you can use to apply for a visa, if this is required. An application as a doctoral researcher is possible at any time and is not bound to fixed deadlines. If you would like to enrol at Leipzig University in order to benefit from the student status with all its advantages (semester ticket, discounts, canteen use, etc.), please contact Ms Betina Sedlaczek within the office hours of the International Centre.

In any case, you must register in the list of doctoral candidates of the respective faculty in which you are doing your doctorate. Please do this together with your Leipzig supervisor at the dean's office of the faculty where you are doing your doctorate.

## **IF YOU HAVE ALREADY STARTED A DOCTORATE AT LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY,**

and your supervisor recommends a binational doctorate with a university outside Germany, then you should work with your supervisor to find a supervisor at a university abroad that also has the right to award doctorates. Existing academic and personal contacts of the Leipzig supervisor are often helpful here. You present your dissertation project to the requested supervisor and ask for a written confirmation of supervision.

## **DRAWING UP THE AGREEMENT ON THE BINATIONAL DOCTORAL PROCEDURE**

If you have decided on a binational doctorate in consultation with your supervisor, you must prepare an individual agreement with both universities involved in the doctorate. For the Leipzig University, you must observe the respective doctoral regulations of the faculty at which the binational doctorate is being prepared. The contact persons at the faculties are the assistants to the dean, which have sample agreements. It is your responsibility to agree on the individual agreement texts on the basis of the annotated sample agreement. The assistants to the dean at the faculties and the International Centre are there to advise you, but cannot under any circumstances take over the agreements with the other university.