

Information sheet for supervisors in the cotutelle procedure at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Cologne

On this information sheet you will find important information on supervising cotutelle doctorates at the University of Cologne.

What is a cotutelle doctorate?

A cotutelle doctorate enables doctoral students to complete a doctorate in two countries. In doing so, they will be *jointly supervised* by a member of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Cologne and a supervisor at a university abroad. After successful defence, a jointly recognised doctoral degree will be awarded *by the University of Cologne and the partner university*.

The basis for the cotutelle doctorate is the ‘cotutelle agreement’, which is signed by the doctoral student, the supervisors, and representatives of the participating faculties and/or the university governance.

The home university

For cotutelle doctorates, one of the cooperating universities acts as lead partner – the so-called ‘home university’ or ‘first partner’. The other partner is the ‘host university’ or ‘second partner’. The greater part of the doctoral period is spent at the first site, and this is also where the examination takes place. This process is generally based on the regulations of the home university. Compromises are set out in the cotutelle agreement.

When is a cotutelle doctorate a good idea?

Cotutelle doctorates are targeted at doctoral students whose research projects require the involvement of two universities or who would like to get to know the research cultures of two countries equally. The individual cotutelle agreement guarantees the supervision of the doctoral project by a supervisor from a partner institution and simplifies the organisation of stays abroad. In addition, complex procedures for recognition of the doctoral degree can be avoided since the doctoral title can be used in the forms that are recognised in both countries.

Can any doctoral student apply for a Cotutelle doctorate?

Yes. All doctoral students admitted to doctoral studies at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities can pursue a cotutelle doctorate. All foreign universities that are recognised in Germany with H+ status can be chosen as partner universities. (We would be happy to advise you in case of doubt about the H+ status of a university). Doctoral students from foreign universities can endeavour to carry out a cotutelle doctorate with the University of Cologne as second partner if they are studying at a recognised university and have completed their studies entitling them to pursue a doctorate with a minimum grade of 2.4 (converted into the German grading system). Please take note of the [contact form for external doctoral students](#) who are interested in a cotutelle doctorate with the University of Cologne as second partner.

Role of the supervisor

If the **University of Cologne is the home university** the supervisor is required, besides the supervision of the doctoral student, to conduct joint supervisory meetings with the second supervisor of the partner university and to include him/her in the vote on the proposal for the examination committee.

If the **Partner University is the home university of the cooperation**, the Cologne supervisor plays a key role in the process:

- Before the negotiation of the agreement starts, the designated second supervisor in Cologne should check if the doctoral candidate's project can be well supervised and should also liaise with the first supervisor abroad. (The negotiation of the agreement will be handled by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities' Cotutelle office/Central Doctoral Office.)
- The Cologne second supervisor acts as a contact person for the doctoral candidate during his/her guest stay at the University of Cologne and, if possible, opens up networking opportunities and access to courses and events at the respective department. Before the examination, the Cologne second supervisor confirms that the research stay in Cologne was completed in accordance with the guidelines of the agreement.
- Most cotutelle agreements require the joint appointment to the examination committee. The Cologne second supervisor develops a proposal for the composition for the examination committee together with the doctoral student and the first supervisor of the home university in accordance with the regulations set out in the cotutelle agreement. The proposal must be approved by the home university and the University of Cologne's Dean of the Faculty of Humanities to be able to start the examination procedure. The Cologne second supervisor represents the University of Cologne at the examination.

Further information on cotutelle doctorates can be found at:

<https://artes.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/en/doctorate/international-doctorate/co-tutelage/faq>

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