COTUTELLE PROCEDURE AND BI-NATIONAL PHD STUDY

WHAT?
The so-called Cotutelle procedure enables a PhD study with a bi-national supervision, which means the doctoral thesis project is passed at a German university as well as at a foreign university. A successful bi-national doctoral programme leads to a (single) degree of doctor, which is awarded by both involved universities conjointly.

WHO?
As the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz already expressed\(^1\), a bi-national doctoral programme is particularly interesting for those doctoral students, who wish to

- Secure their academic links to both participating countries,
- Decide at a later date which country they would like to work in,
- Continue in bi-national fields of work, or
- Maintain a research focus that is strongly connected to the other country.

WHY or WHY NOT?

**Pro:**
- Acquirement of cross-cultural competence, that exceeds the acquirement of language skills
- Deeper Insight into and connection with both scientific systems and both systems of higher education
- Better chances at the international job market
- Additional value through different points of views (because of different traditions in science)
- Acquirement of organisational competence

**Contra:**
- Considerably higher expenditure of time and organisation during the planning as well as during the realisation
- Higher financial burden
- Communication problems (between the PhD student and the supervisors as well as among the supervisors) may complicate the progress of the work
- A joint supervision may be problematic, as the PhD student has to balance probably two very different opinions

HOW?
The specific conditions of a PhD study with a bi-national supervision are regulated in an individual agreement or rather individual contract of joint supervision, that is signed by the respective PhD-student, the two supervisors, the deans of the departments in question and by the rectors of the universities. This contract determines among other things at which university the registration and tuition fees have to be paid, which mode the oral examination has, how the board of examination is composed and how the PhD certificate will be look like. Every bi-national PhD project is negotiated individually (mostly by the PhD student himself) and is in that way an individual case. Basically every PhD student has to be registered at both universities (that means also to satisfy both admission standards) and should stay at least one semester at the partner university abroad.

\(^{1}\) http://www.hrk.de/hrk-international/mobility-and-mutual-recognition/cotutelle/
WHEN?
A Cotutelle procedure should be organized at the beginning of the PhD study but under certain circumstances it is also possible at a later point of time.

WHERE can I find more information?

In general:

- Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (here you find also Cotutelle Contract Templates): http://www.hrk.de/hrk-international/mobility-and-mutual-recognition/cotutelle/

- University of Leipzig about a bi-national PhD study: http://www.zv.unileipzig.de/en/research/phd/binational-doctoral-degrees.html

- Research Academy Leipzig, Graduate Centre Humanities and Social Sciences: http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~ral/gchuman/en/international/co-tutelle/

- PromovierendenRat of the University of Leipzig: http://www.prorat.uni-leipzig.de/beratung/

Special possibilities of funding:


- Grant of mobility (for traveling costs etc.) of the Université franco-allemande, only in french: http://www.dfh-ufa.org/fr/recherche/cotutelle-de-these/ or german: http://www.dfh-ufa.org/de/forschung/promotion-cotutelle-de-these/

Contact person at the University of Leipzig:

- First persons of contact are the supervisors and the “Dekanatsräte” of the particular department

- Christiane Gräfenhain, International Center (Akademisches Auslandsamt) of the University of Leipzig (took especial care of the signature of the rector): christiane.graefenhain@zv.uni-leipzig.de

- Dr. Martina Keilbach, coordinator of the Graduate Centre Humanities and Social Sciences of the Research Academy Leipzig: ral.humanities@uni-leipzig.de

- Carla Backhaus M.A., Consulting and exchange of experiences concerning the bi-national PhD-study of the PromovierendenRat: carla.backhaus@uni-leipzig.de