

DECREE of January 6th 2005

on the international joint supervision of doctoral thesis

The minister for National Education, Higher Education and Research,

Having regard to the Education Code, notably its Articles L. 123-7, L. 612-7, D. 123-12, D. 123-13 et D. 123-14 ;

Having regard to the Decree n° 2002-482 of April 8th 2002 implementing the creation of the European higher education area into the French higher education system, amended by the Decree n° 2004-703 of July 13th 2004 ;

Having regard to the Decree of September 25th 1985 on the conditions of submitting, reporting and printing out of theses or works defended for the doctorate ;

Having regard to the Decree of April 25th 2002 on doctoral studies ;

Having regard to the recommendation by the National Council for Higher Education and Research of November 15th 2004,

Decides :

Article 1 -

In order to strengthen the construction of the European higher education and research area and to develop international cooperation, a French higher education institution entitled to award a doctorate degree can sign, with one or several foreign higher education institutions enjoying the same prerogatives in their countries, an agreement aiming to set up an international joint supervision of doctoral thesis, according to the provisions set by the decree hereby.

Article 2 -

The international joint supervision of doctoral thesis aims to strengthen the international dimension of doctoral training, to promote doctoral students' mobility within different scientific and cultural areas and to develop the scientific cooperation between French and foreign research teams.

Article 3 -

The agreement mentioned in article 1 can be either a framework agreement together with an implementation agreement, or a specifically agreed on convention for each thesis.

These agreed on documents must detail the name of the contracting higher education institutions and, for each thesis, the name of the student concerned and the thesis' topic.

These documents bind the contracting institutions on the basis of a reciprocity principle.

Doctorates awarded within the framework of the provisions set by the decree hereby are fully and automatically recognized in France. Agreements must mention the forms of recognition in the other country or countries.

Article 4 -

Whenever some rules applicable to doctoral studies in the countries involved are incompatible with each other, French institutions are allowed to depart from the provisions of the aforementioned Decree of April 25th2002 on these particular aspects, in accordance with the provisions of the decree hereby and the conditions set by the agreement.

Article 5 -

Doctoral students carry out their works, in each country involved, under the supervision of a thesis tutor committed to fully fulfil his or her guidance functions in collaboration with the other thesis tutor or tutors. The thesis tutors and the doctoral student sign the agreement mentioned in article 3 for the thesis concerned.

Article 6 -

The carrying out of the thesis is made by alternate periods within the institutions involved according to a balance and arrangements set by the agreement.

Regarding periods of study carried out in France and the thesis defence, the aforementioned Decree of April 25th 2002 provides doctoral students with clauses provided for them.

Article 7 -

The principles governing the setting up of the jury and the appointment of its chair are mentioned in the agreement. The jury is set up on the basis of a balanced proportion of members from each institution and jointly appointed by the contracting institutions and it also includes personalities from outside. The number of the members to the jury cannot exceed 8.

Article 8 –

The language in which the thesis is written is set by the convention agreed on by the contracting institutions. When this language is not French, a substantial summary written in French should be added to the thesis itself.

Article 9 -

The thesis can only lead to a single thesis defence. The chair of the jury draws up a report on the thesis defense to be countersigned by the members to the jury.

Subsequently to the thesis defence, contracting institutions can award the student :

- either a jointly awarded doctorate degree;
- or simultaneously a doctorate degree awarded by each of them.

In both cases:

- the doctoral degree or degrees are awarded by the academic authorities entitled to do so, in accordance with the recommendation by the jury, after the thesis defence;
- on the diploma itself of doctoral degree(s), a mention about the field or the subject, the title of the thesis or the heading of the main works, the mention of the international joint supervision, the names and the titles of the members to the jury and the submission date are put forward.

The agreement provides for the modes of enforcement of the article hereby.

Article 10 -

The agreement also details:

- the enrolment conditions of doctoral students;
- the conditions of payment for tuition fees according to the training provisions agreed on, without the doctoral student being possibly forced to pay for fees in several institutions simultaneously;
- the conditions for the coverage by the Social Security as well as the accommodation conditions and the financial support available to the doctoral student to ensure his or her mobility.

Article 11 -

The arrangements for the protection of the thesis subject, for submitting, reporting and printing out of theses as well as those for the management of the research results which are common to the laboratories involved, of their publishing and commercial use, are set in accordance with the specific legislation of each country involved in the carrying out of the thesis and are detailed by the agreement.

Article 12 –

The Decree of January 18th 1994 on the creation of a mechanism for the joint supervision of doctoral thesis between French and foreign higher education institutions is abrogated.

Article 13 -

The director for higher education is responsible for the enforcement of the decree hereby which will be published in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

Done in Paris, on January 6th 2005.

On behalf and under the authority of the Minister:

The director for higher education,

J.-M. Monteil