



## Cotutelle Agreements with Universities in France

**Policy Category:** General Policy

**Subject:** Framework to Establish Dual Doctorate (Cotutelle) Agreements with Universities in France

**Subsections:**

**Related Policies:**

**Effective Date:** July 2010

**Supersedes:** \*

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1. SGPS may enter into dual doctorate agreements with French universities, on behalf of individual PhD candidates, in accordance with the provisions of this framework. SGPS will be responsible for ensuring that individual agreements conform to Western's internal doctoral degree requirements and each must be approved by the Vice-Provost (SGPS). Agreements will be signed in accordance with [MAPP 1.26, Establishing International Academic Partnerships](#).
  2. Such agreements will be binding on the respective institutions on a reciprocal basis. The PhD degrees awarded under these arrangements are fully recognized in each of the contracting countries. Agreements must set out the manner in which the degrees are recognized in their respective countries. (Currently, degrees from all Canadian universities are recognized in France and vice-versa.)
  3. Doctoral candidates will carry out their research in both countries, under the direction of PhD supervisors who undertake to act in a full supervisory capacity together with the other supervisor (or supervisors) in the other country. All PhD supervisors involved will sign the dual doctorate agreement.
  4. The thesis work will be carried out in alternating periods of work at the institutions involved, in a manner set out in the agreement.
  5. The rules governing the composition of the thesis examination board and the naming of the board's chair will be set out in each agreement. Where appropriate, examination boards will be formed on a balanced basis, with

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equal membership from each of the institutions involved as well as a member (or members) external to both institutions. The maximum membership of an examination board shall not exceed eight persons.

6. The language in which the thesis is to be written will be set out in the agreement between the institutions. Where this language is not English, a substantive summary of the thesis in English will be included when the thesis is submitted for examination.
7. The thesis will be examined at a single thesis defense, with membership as set out in the agreement. Institutions will share the cost of the defense equally. After a successful thesis defense, each institution will award the candidate a doctoral degree in accordance with its own regulations for conferral of degrees. The official record of the degree(s) shall indicate the candidate's specialization or discipline, the title of the thesis and a mention of the international dual doctorate.
8. The agreement will set out the manner in which Ph.D. candidates are to be registered, and how they are to pay tuition fees. Candidates will not be required to pay tuition at more than one institution simultaneously. The agreement will also set out the manner in which other applicable fees, including health insurance, will be paid in each country.
9. Issues with respect to official deposits, listing and distribution of theses, the management of joint research results from laboratories or research teams involved, as well as the publication and the derived uses of such results, will be governed by specific rules and legislation in force in each of the respective