



AGREEMENT
for the joint EPFL and UCL PhD

between

The **Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne**, CE 3 316 (Centre Est), Station 1, CH-1015
Lausanne (Switzerland), hereinafter referred to as the « EPFL »,
represented by its Provost, Prof. Philippe Gillet, and its Vice-provost for Research, Prof. Andreas
Mortensen,

and

the **Université catholique de Louvain**, 1 place de l'Université, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium),
hereinafter referred to as the « UCL »,
represented by its Rector, Prof. Vincent Blondel,

hereinafter collectively referred to as the « Parties » or individually referred to as a « Party »;

Whereas, the Parties have agreed on the principle of awarding a joint PhD to commonly selected doctoral candidates ;

Whereas, the Parties wish to stress the main points of their respective doctoral school study process and rules in order to lay down in an agreement (the « Agreement ») the basic academic framework regarding joint PhD theses of their institutions;

Whereas provisions of the Agreement, particularly those relating to the protection of thesis topics as well as the publication, use and protection of the results of research common to the two host universities of the doctoral candidate are required to be in conformity both with the specific procedures in each of the two countries as well as the relevant internal regulations of each institution;

It is agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Agreement sets the basic academic framework regarding the joint EPFL and UCL PhD. For each candidate, the Parties will agree on concrete implementation provisions.

Article 2

The joint doctoral candidates pay the doctoral fees required by each Party.

Article 3

Joint doctoral candidates must be supervised and directed jointly by a thesis director at each of the Parties. The thesis directors shall hold their role and be responsible in the matter towards their respective institution. The two thesis directors shall supervise the doctoral candidate in collaboration and consensus. In case of disagreement between the two directors that cannot be resolved, the thesis shall cease to be joint and the doctoral candidate shall remain registered within at most one of the two Parties. The candidate's choice shall be taken into account.

Article 4

Joint doctoral candidates shall share their thesis work time between the Parties, according to a timetable jointly drawn up by the two thesis directors at the start of the thesis and joined to the individual agreement. The joint doctoral candidates must spend at least 25% of their research time at each of the two Parties. The timetable will be updated yearly upon agreement of the thesis directors. The timetable shall take into consideration the obligation of the joint doctoral candidates to participate in teaching activities at the EPFL and at the UCL.

Joint doctoral candidates shall complete their work in four years. That period may be extended with the agreement of the Parties following a recommendation of the two thesis directors made six months before the date at which the thesis is scheduled to end.

Article 5

At the end of the first year, joint doctoral candidates shall meet the EPFL requirements at this stage, including passing the candidacy examination, in order to be admitted for thesis preparation and therefore pursue their work at the EPFL.

The confirmation examination required at UCL will be jointly organized with the candidacy examination at EPFL.

Article 6

Every year, joint doctoral candidates shall submit an annual report to the thesis directors in order to validate the progress of their work.

Article 7

Joint doctoral candidates shall obtain all the credits (ECTS) demanded by the study plan of EPFL's and UCL's doctoral programs. They can earn the credits by succeeding at doctoral courses from the Parties. The candidate is allowed to specify the same courses and credits in the two doctoral programs, in order to fulfil the requirements of each institution, provided the credits are recognized as valid by both institutions.

Article 8

The thesis shall be written and defended in English with an abstract in French.

Article 9

Joint doctoral candidates shall succeed a joint EPFL-UCL oral thesis examination. The examination is held in private, in the presence of all the members of the examination jury, at one of the two institutions.

Article 10

The examination jury shall include the president of the jury, both thesis directors, one examiner external to both Parties, one examiner from each Party, all jointly nominated and approved by both Parties' competent authorities. The jury must be formed of exactly five members plus its president, all are required to have gained the academic rank of Doctor after having defended a thesis or provided evidence of expert knowledge of an equivalent level. The president of the jury shall be nominated by common accord between the competent authorities of the Parties and shall be aware of the rules of the Parties so as to ensure that these will be respected.

Article 11

After having succeeded the joint oral thesis examination, joint doctoral candidates shall present their thesis at a public defence at the UCL or the EPFL. Before the public defence, the doctoral candidates shall also present the results of their research at an open seminar held in the other university.

Article 12

The doctoral title shall be awarded as a single joint degree from both Parties. The degree shall bear the logos and signatures of the Parties and must respect the legal provisions in both countries.

Article 13

The Parties shall for their own good remind the doctoral candidates about their duties related to the special terms and provisions applying within their respective institutions regarding the intellectual property and the confidentiality of the information they might get acquainted with during their work.

The Parties undertake to abide by the strictest ethical rules in force in their country and institution.

Article 14

The Agreement shall come into force on 19 January 2016. The Parties may each terminate the Agreement by the giving of a prior one-year written previous notice by registered mail with acknowledgement of receipt. Upon the termination, the Agreement shall continue and survive until the last doctoral candidate enrolled under the Agreement has finished his work.

Article 15

Any dispute arising under the Agreement shall be settled under the rules of the ordinary court of the defendant. The Parties shall use their best endeavours to immediately resolve the dispute amicably.

For the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

Prof. Philippe Gillet

Provost

Date:

Signature

18.01.2016



For the Université catholique de Louvain

Prof. Vincent Blondel

Rector

Date:

Signature

19/01/2016



Prof. Andreas Mortensen

Vice-provost for Research

Date:

Signature

15-1-'16

