



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

PhD

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UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

INDIVIDUAL JOINT PHDS

INFORMATION SHEET

GENERAL INFORMATION ON JOINT PHD PROCEDURES

IS A JOINT PHD REALLY NEEDED?

A Joint PhD is a doctoral degree awarded jointly by two institutions. This type of doctorate does not mean that you are simply supervised by one supervisor in one university with another advising you on an informal basis. A Joint PhD means that you are fully registered in two universities, having to comply with all bureaucracy including admission requirements and time-consuming and perhaps contradictory assessment regulations at both institutions. The legislation of the institutions may not automatically permit a Joint PhD solution. Individual Joint PhDs are not an easy option and they will not suit all students. You will have to reflect carefully on how a Joint PhD would add to your training and your research. In many cases, a research period spent at one or several institutions abroad could be the preferred solution for your needs and could be more beneficial to your doctoral studies.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

You are required to fulfill the following terms before a Joint PhD contract can be established:

- You must fulfill all requirements for doctoral studies in the appropriate faculty at UHH and be admitted to doctoral studies by said faculty. All requirements for doctoral studies need to be fulfilled as well at the partner institution.
- You must have one supervisor at UHH and one supervisor at the partner institution.
- You must have a research proposal approved by the appropriate faculty and doctoral committee at UHH and by the partner institution.
- Your request to carry out a Joint PhD must be approved by the appropriate faculty and doctoral committee at UHH and by the partner institution.
- You must provide comprehensive information that is relevant to your Joint PhD and to the process of working out an agreement.
- You must enroll at each institution and pay tuition fees¹, unless otherwise stated.

¹ There are no tuition fees at Hamburg for PhD students. However, all enrolled students at Universität Hamburg must pay a semester contribution ("Semesterbeitrag") of ca. 320 EUR (fee may be subject to change), which includes a public transportation ticket valid for the whole semester. In some cases, the semester contribution of doctoral students within the Joint PhD program can be reduced for the semester entirely spent at the partner institution.

You must fulfill the following terms to complete the Joint PhD:

- Ideally, you carry out 50% of your research at each institution (50:50), but not less than 30% (30:70).
- You must successfully defend your Joint PhD degree in a single examination in accordance with the regulations of the appropriate faculty at UHH and the partner institution.

PROCEDURE FOR STRUCTURED JOINT PHD PROGRAMS

UHH has established structured Joint PhD programs with partner institutions. If you are planning on doing a Joint PhD with one of the institutions listed here, <https://www.uni-hamburg.de/en/internationales/promotion/joint-doctoral-degrees.html>, please proceed as follows:

- Ensure that you are joining the program with a good time management.
- Find the appropriate supervisors at both institutions.
- Contact the responsible person of the program.

INDIVIDUAL JOINT PHDs

Under special circumstances, UHH can support individual Joint PhDs with institutions with which no structured program has been established. Generally, the supervisors from both institutions must agree to take on the project and clear the process within their respective faculties and institutions. Please be aware that an individual Joint PhD is quite complex and time-consuming for you as well as your supervisors. Be prepared to work closely together with your doctoral supervisors at UHH and the partner institution and to provide necessary information and documentation needed to move the process along.

If you would like to pursue an individual Joint PhD and you have supervisors from both institutions who have agreed to support the project, please regard the information under Terms and Conditions.

It may take between 3 to 9 months to successfully establish a Joint PhD contract, depending on factors such as responsiveness of partner institution, legal review of documents and signatures.

Please note: The success of the process of working out a contract is highly dependent on the cooperation and flexibility of the partner institution and not always guaranteed.

DIPLOMA

A bilingual diploma will generally be issued. This will occur after publication of the doctoral dissertation (E-publications possible).

FINANCING AT UHH

You will need to secure financing for your doctoral studies at UHH independently. Look for scholarships or talk to your supervisor at UHH whether there are funding possibilities within his/her research areas. More information on funding can be found online:

<https://www.hra-hamburg.de/promovierende/finanzierung.html>.

FINANCING AT PARTNER INSTITUTION

Finding funding to your Joint PhD is not always easy. You are responsible for financing your doctoral studies at the partner institution yourself. Talk to your supervisor at the partner institution about funding opportunities at the partner institution.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Depending on the partner institution, proof of certain language skills may be required. Costs for language tests may apply.
- Costs for visa applications may apply, depending on the location of the partner institution.
- Health insurance costs generally apply for the time of stay at either institution.
- Enrollment, registration and tuition as well as other fees may apply at the partner institution.