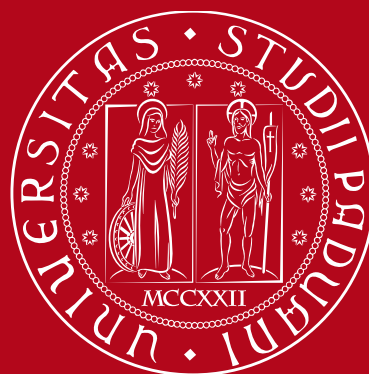


1222 • 2022  
800  
ANNI



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA

800  
1222 • 2022  
ANNI

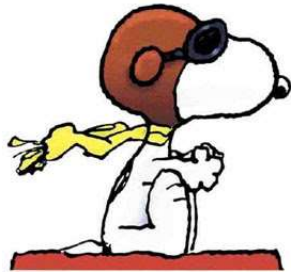


UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA

Ph.D. Welcome Day 2021  
November 20<sup>th</sup>

Joint supervision agreements  
("cotutelle de thèse")

# What



- A **cotutelle**, so called since the program originated in France (but often also referred to as **joint doctorate** or **cotutelage of doctoral thesis**), is a Ph.D. conducted in the framework of a bilateral agreement signed between two universities of two different Countries
  
- Such agreement regulates:
  - **enrollment** → admission, tuition fees, duration of the doctoral programme, possible extensions
  - **research work** → research field, thesis topic, supervisors, language (thesis and defense), grants, mobility scheduling
  - **thesis evaluation** → thesis assessment, board of examiners, final examination, degree(s) awarded, diploma(s) issued

- This collaboration requires the Ph.D. student to be **enrolled at both partner universities** and to carry out his/her research work at the two institutions for alternate periods (preferably of equivalent duration, and in any case for **at least six months**), under the joint supervision of **two tutors**, one for each university



- The cotutelle ends with a **single final exam** (viva voce) before a committee composed of members from both partner universities, recognized by both institutions, following which the doctoral degree (**double or joint diploma**) is awarded in both Countries

➤ **Documents** needed:

- **framework agreement** = **institutional agreement**, through which the two partner universities establish a list of provisions for the creation of a procedure of joint supervision of a doctoral thesis, with the aim of fostering scientific cooperation and promoting the mobility of doctoral students between the universities
- **specific convention** = individual agreement **for the doctoral student**; it is drawn up in compliance with the provisions of the framework agreement but it refers to a specific candidate, focusing on the research work which will be developed. The document has usually the same template of the f.a., but the content is far more detailed. Particular attention is addressed to the different role of the two institutions:
  - ❖ home university, with administrative responsibility, where the candidate passed the admission exam and where the defense takes place\*
  - ❖ host university, that exempts the candidate from admission procedures and tuition fees\*



The conduct of the research and its contents, the use of materials as well as **intellectual property rights**, confidentiality and privacy are agreed on separately as necessary

\*with some exceptions

## Who

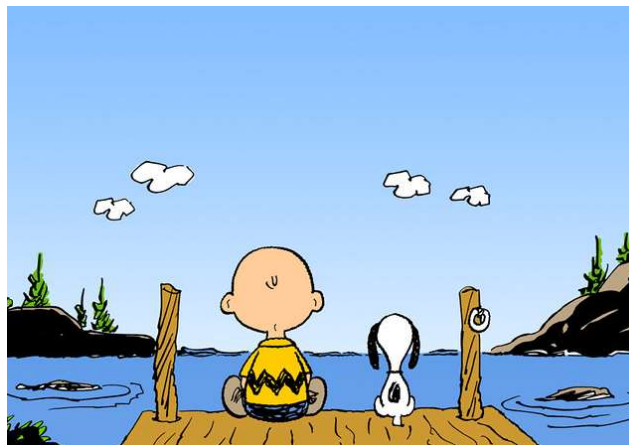
- Requests are usually submitted by **doctoral students** or **supervisors**
- **Signers** of the agreements are:



Framework agreement	Specific convention
The Rector	The Rector
(The Coordinator of the Ph.D. Programme)	(The Coordinator of the Ph.D. Programme)
	The supervisor
	The doctoral student

# When

- Ask for the cotutelle as soon as possible, preferably during your **first year** of Ph.D., since:
  - the whole research work should be jointly carried out
  - the partner university might not accept registrations from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year onwards
  - the procedure may take **a lot of time** (weeks, months... even years)



## Where

- Everywhere, potentially
- With **French, Spanish, German, and Swiss universities** there's no need to sign a framework agreement, since a cotutelle can be set up on the basis of the agreements with CRUI (the Conference of Italian University Rectors):
  - France: f.a. CRUI-CPU (1998)
  - Spain: f.a. CRUI-CRUE (1998)
  - Germany: f.a. CRUI-HRK (2000)
  - Switzerland: f.a. CRUI-CRUS (2003)

So, the only document needed is the specific convention on behalf of the student



- With **universities of other Countries**, instead, two docs are required → a framework agreement between the two institutions + the individual convention for the candidate



➤ So far, Unipd has made joint supervisions agreements with **208 universities** from **34 different Countries**:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Croatia
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Kazakhstan
- Luxembourg



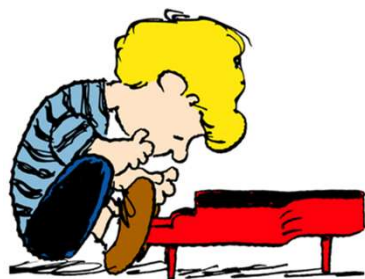
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Peru
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Switzerland
- The Netherlands
- Tunisia
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Venezuela

...and others will be signed soon (hopefully)

# How

➤ In order to establish a cotutelle you have to:

- **be enrolled** in a doctoral programme at the University of Padova (or a foreign university)
- **talk to your supervisor** about this possibility, get their consent
- **find a professor of the host university** who's interested in your research work and willing to co-supervise you
- **get the approval of the Academic Board** of the Ph.D. Programme
- **ask** the administrative staff of the partner university **about possible fees, deadlines, requirements** for the admission/registration, **documents** to submit
- **contact the Ph.D. Office** and **ask for the draft(s) of agreement**, which must be filled in and forward to the host institution
- **wait** for the draft(s) to be defined
- (get the approval of the Academic Senate)
- **sign** the agreement(s)
- **register** at the partner university



These steps should be done in this order, but that's not always possible since the partner university may have different rules. **Compromise is accepted, but must be agreed before:** don't go your own way!

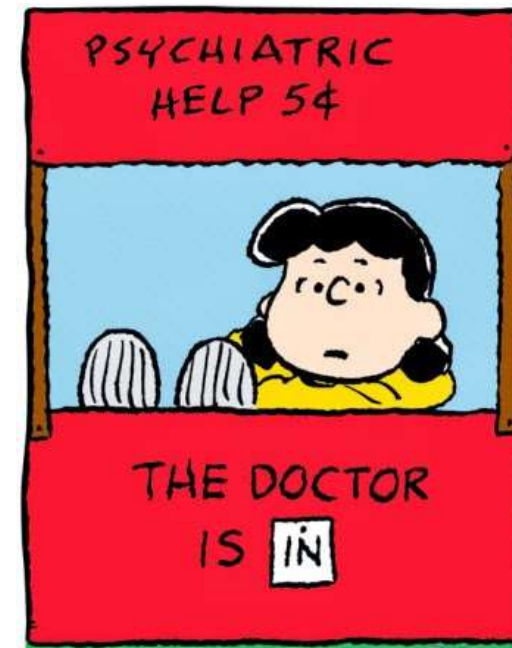
# Why



- Strategic objective of the cotutelle is to increase the level of **internationalization** of the two partner universities, and of the research work as well
- It encourages the **mobility** of doctoral students
- One Ph.D. / **two doctoral degrees\*\***:
  - **joint degree** = one diploma, signed by both Rectors, is issued by the home university; the doctoral degree is jointly conferred and legally recognized in two Countries
  - **double degree** = each university issues a diploma confirming the awarding of the degree, in accordance with the regulations in force in that institution
- You can experience the reality of two different academic systems, increase your **linguistic and intercultural skills**, gain new **research competencies**
- It brings **added value** to the doctoral thesis and enhances the quality of the research

## Why not

- You have to enroll also at the host university, which however may not exempt you from **tuition fees** (and the amount required can be substantial)
- A mobility of at least 6 months must be carried out at the partner institution: some **living costs** might be charged to you
- \*\*A cotutelle is **not a 2for1**: being awarded two doctoral degrees implies meeting the requirements of two universities (different regulations, procedures, deadlines): get ready for a lot of **stress**!





## Things to watch out for

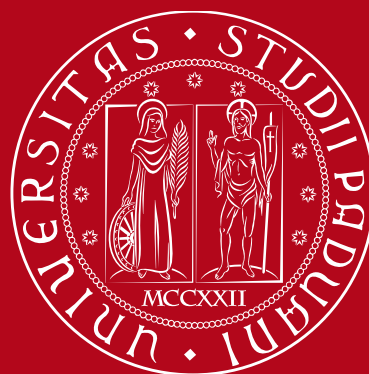
- The provisions of the agreement are binding: **check it carefully** before signing, for any modification requires an avenant (signed amendment)
- **Follow Unipd regulations**, first of all, even (especially!) when they are different from the ones in force at the host university
- Be patient, and **don't take it for granted**: despite a long negotiation the agreement may not go through, because of incompatible rules



Thank you for your attention!

Ester

1222 • 2022  
800  
ANNI



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA