



Fastställt av Forskarutbildningsnämnden 20-04-08

Policy

General principles regarding doctoral double degree programmes at the Faculty of Medicine, Lund University

Background

From July 1, 2010, it is possible for Swedish universities to organise postgraduate studies in collaboration with one or more Swedish or international universities that lead to a *double degree*. This document covers the general principles for such a *double degree* at the Faculty of Medicine at Lund University.

Definition

A *double degree* relates to two national degrees that are based on two partially overlapping doctoral programs leading to at least one dissertation/public defense and two diplomas.

To consider

Before proceeding with establishing a collaboration contract for a double degree and admitting a candidate, the supervisors at each university should consider the following:

- The aim and scope of the collaboration in the short and long term.
- Added benefits, strengths or synergies created by including a double degree candidate within the collaboration.
- An understanding and acceptance by the collaboration partner that the research studies program at Lund University is 4 years fulltime (240 ECTS).

Requirements for a double degree agreement

All doctoral students admitted and registered at Lund University must comply with the rules set out in the Rules for PhD studies at the Faculty of Medicine¹. Furthermore, the following requirements must be met for a double degree agreement:

1. Agreement

If the proposed collaboration involves supervisors of doctoral students from more than one Department at the Faculty of Medicine, or proposes a longer term collaboration that will involve a number of doctoral candidates, a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the double degree program between the two institutions should be drawn up and signed by the Dean and the Vice Dean for PhD studies at the Faculty of Medicine.

a. There must always be an individual agreement for each doctoral candidate involved in the double degree program. This should be signed by the Dean and the Vice Dean for PhD studies at the Faculty of Medicine.

b. The initiative and final contract covering the terms of the double degree should be taken and completed prior to the candidate being admitted and registered at either university. If this is not possible, the initiative and final contract should be completed within the first year of the doctoral candidate's admittance at the principle university.

2. Admission and registration.

The candidate has to be admitted and registered at both universities according to the rules of both universities.

3. Individual study plan

An individual study plan has to be established for the candidate.

4. Supervision

At least two supervisors have to be appointed. A supervisor who is employed at both universities cannot alone provide the supervision for the candidate and it is therefore recommended that there is one supervisor at each partner university and that one of these is the main supervisor. The names of the supervisors and their respective roles (main supervisor/co-supervisor) must be stated in the agreement.

5. Duration

The Swedish Doctoral degree is awarded when the candidate has satisfactorily completed 240 credits and entails 4 years of full-time study. In many countries, a doctoral degree is awarded after 3 years of study. There are a number of solutions when a double degree is proposed with a partner university with a 3-year doctoral program system.

a. The partner university accepts a 4-year program.

b. The candidate defers the formal registration at the partner university by one year, after having completed the first year at Lund university. However, it is paramount that

¹ Rules for PhD studies, dnr U 2018/624

the candidate and the supervisors receive written confirmation that the candidate's scheduled registration at the partner university will not be further delayed and the proposed start date is agreed upon.

c. Candidates with the partner university as their home institution, complete a 3-year program. Candidates with Lund University as their home institution, complete a 4-year program.

d. Candidates with a master's degree can apply for credit transfer. The PhD program will be a 3-year program in those cases. The credit transfer has to be initiated by the candidate and be completed at admission.

6. Courses and seminars

The doctoral candidate has to complete a compulsory course package totalling 26.5 higher education credits. The course package includes an elective course worth 1.5 credits and a Portfolio course worth 12 credits. The requirement of attending at least 6 seminars per year during 3 years has to be fulfilled.

7. Recognising credit

Credits earned at the partner university can be recognised by Lund University upon formal assessment.

8. Mobility

The doctoral candidate should spend a minimum of one year, not necessarily consecutively, at the partner university. Exceptions can be made by the Vice Dean for PhD studies under special circumstances, e.g. within EU collaborations when there are other contracts regulating the mobility period. A mobility period completed before initiating the double degree program cannot be included.

9. Half-time review

Doctoral candidates enrolled in a double degree program must complete a half-time review according to the regulations at the Faculty of Medicine. The half-time review can be carried out at a partner institution but must include a representative from the Faculty of Medicine at Lund University. The planned location of the half-time review should be included in the student specific agreement.

10. Public defence

A public defence with a faculty examiner and an examination committee is obligatory. The form and organization of the dissertation shall be stated in the written agreement. Lund University can accept a public defence conducted by the partner university but all Lund University specific regulations concerning public defence must be met.

11. Degree

Each participating university issues a separate degree document. It should be clear that the programme has taken place in cooperation with the partner university and

that a corresponding degree has been issued by that same university.

12. Diploma supplement

Participating institutions should agree on the design of the diploma supplement. It should be clear from the diploma supplement that the program was completed in collaboration with the partner university, and that a corresponding degree has been issued by that same university.

13. Fees, employments/scholarship and insurance

Lund University will not charge a tuition fee. Lund University prefers to arrange with an employment of doctoral students according to local regulations but funding through an external scholarship is also allowed. The form and level of funding, and arrangement of insurance, shall be stated in the double degree agreement.