MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
JOINTLY AWARDED DOCTORAL DEGREE

Preamble: International Jointly Awarded Doctoral Degree

A jointly awarded doctorate is a qualification conferred upon a student on completion of a collaborative programme established by the partner institutions.

It is characterised by:

- Meeting the academic requirements of both universities
- Agreement regarding a lead university
- Joint supervision
- A single degree awarded for one thesis
- Parchment(s) issued which indicate that there has been joint supervision

The LERU Universities of <> are committed to the development of a scheme for the establishment of jointly awarded doctoral degrees.

Each LERU collaborative student programme established under the terms of this MOU will be the subject of a separate Memorandum of Agreement entered into between the institutions concerned. Specific items for inclusion or detailed clarification in the Memoranda of Agreement between partner institutions would INCLUDE THE TOPICS COVERED BY Articles 3-11 of the 13 Articles of this Memorandum of Understanding:

Article 1:
The collaborating institutions will jointly award a single doctoral degree to a student who participates in a joint programme involving the collaborative LERU institutions.

Article 2:
When appropriate, this Memorandum of Understanding could be extended to LERU universities beyond the Participating Universities
**Article 3:**
For each student accepted for study on a jointly awarded doctoral programme, one of the collaborating institutions will be designated as the **Lead University** responsible for overall administration.

**Article 4:**
Each institution will provide at least one supervisor or a higher minimum number if local regulations so require. All supervisors should hold actual or virtual joint meetings with the student as defined in the **Memorandum of Agreement**.

**Article 5:**
Each collaborating institution agrees to allow a student enrolled for study in a jointly awarded doctoral programme to have the same level of access to facilities enjoyed by other students enrolled at that institution.

**Article 6:**
Each of the institutions involved must arrange for the admission of the student in accordance with their own procedures. Normally arrangements for a jointly awarded doctorate should be established at the outset. An individual **Memorandum of Agreement** covering each student’s research and studies must be completed and approved by both supervisors, the student and a designated authorised university signatory.

**Article 7:**
The financial arrangements between collaborating institutions for tuition fees (if appropriate), student support and examinations should be stated in the **Memorandum of Agreement** in each specific case.

**Article 8:**
Duration of research and study for the doctorate will normally be not less than three years full time equivalent. The doctoral candidate shall spend a substantial research period (not less than one year) in both of the partner institutions. Departure from this normal duration must be specified in the **Memorandum of Agreement**.
Article 9:
Examination procedures will be agreed by the two institutions and will be stated in the Memorandum of Agreement.

Article 10:
Issues of Intellectual Property Rights should explicitly be dealt with in the student-specific Memoranda of Agreement between collaborating institutions.

Article 11:
The thesis will normally be written in a language that meets the requirements of the lead institution and where appropriate will include a substantial summary written in the language of the other institution (where there is more than one language of study between the two universities). Departure from this normal approach would be specified in the Memorandum of Agreement.

Article 12:
Normally, graduating students will be awarded their degree at a graduation ceremony at the Lead University. The degree parchment(s) will clearly reflect the joint nature of the award. Both institutions will be entitled to include details of successful graduands in their alumni databases.

Article 13:
Participating universities may give no less than one (1) year’s notice of their intention to cease participation in future programmes of joint doctoral study, providing there are no students currently enrolled at any other LERU university pursuing a jointly awarded doctorate with that university. Should there be a student currently still enrolled and studying, the member wishing to no longer participate in future programmes of jointly awarded doctoral study agrees to time its withdrawal from the programme only after that student has successfully completed their study.
SIGNATURES

This Memorandum of Understanding records the understanding between the parties and is not intended to be a legally binding document and shall not be enforceable in any Court of Law. This Memorandum of Understanding is established in ? original copies written in English all being equally valid. One copy will be kept by the secretariat of LERU.

Signed in <> on by <>: