Introduction
The University of Amsterdam offers the possibility of pursuing a doctorate in the form of a ‘joint doctorate’: a doctorate that is completed simultaneously at two or more universities. The UvA encourages this form of pursuing a doctorate for cases involving a formal collaborative partnership with partner universities of high quality that fit within the university’s international strategy (as established in the Strategic Plan, for example). Institutions that are members of LERU or Universitas 21 are automatically qualified.

In procedural terms, the joint doctorate is a complex endeavour that requires careful attention from all parties involved and in all phases: from the research institute through the faculty to the Maagdenhuis, and from the initial plans to the defence and the degree certificate.

The operational regulations describe how the criteria specified in the Doctorate Regulations are implemented in practice, along with the division of tasks between the Doctorate Board (in consultation with Academic Affairs) and the faculties.

Doctorate Regulations
Article 6 of the new Doctorate Regulations 2014 provides a framework for decision making concerning the joint doctorate. This article states the following:

1. At the University, a joint doctorate can be awarded on the basis of the defence of a doctoral thesis in the presence of the Doctorate Board or the Doctorate Committee appointed by the Doctorate Board.
2. The conferral of the doctorate shall be carried out by the Doctorate Board, together with a comparable body within the partner institution(s).
3. A joint doctorate can only be conferred by the University with the written consent of the Rector Magnificus. For this purpose, the intended supervisor and the Dean of the faculty within which the supervisor is appointed must submit a written request for a joint doctorate to the Doctorate Board.
4. This request will include an explanation of the content and composition of the
programme for the joint doctorate, and will demonstrate that the doctoral thesis will be prepared by means of a formal partnership with the partner(s). The partner(s) will make a substantial contribution to the doctoral programme.

5. The joint doctorate will be arranged by means of a partnership agreement between the University and one or more partner institutions.

6. In the case of a joint doctorate, the doctoral candidate will conduct the research under the responsibility of a supervisor at the University and a supervisor (or the foreign equivalent thereof) from each partner institution with which the partnership referred to in the previous clause has been made.

7. The joint doctorate will, as far as possible, proceed in accordance with the relevant regulations of the partner institutions.

8. Notwithstanding these Regulations, in certain cases the Rector Magnificus, in his/her capacity of chairperson of the Doctorate Board and by mandate of the Doctorate Board, can make further agreements with the partner institution(s), where appropriate. The Doctorate Board will elaborate such arrangements further in a separate set of regulations.

9. In the case of a joint doctorate, the doctoral thesis will require the approval of a Doctorate Committee formed in consultation with the partner(s). At least one of the supervisors on this committee will be from the University.

10. At the start of the joint doctorate programme, it will be agreed where the defence ceremony will take place. For the defence ceremony, the rules of the partner institution at which the ceremony will take place will be respected as far as possible.

11. As evidence of the conferral of a joint doctorate, the candidate will receive a certificate. The form of this certificate will be determined in consultation with the partner(s).

The joint doctorate is also addressed in Article 10.5 of the Doctorate Regulations:

No more than two professors may act as supervisors for a single doctoral thesis, with the exception of joint doctorates where there are more than two partner institutions.

**Term**

As is the case with exemptions to the legal educational requirements (if necessary; Art. 8 of the Doctorate Regulations) and admission to the doctoral programme (Art. 9.3), the joint doctorate must be arranged at the beginning of the doctoral programme. An extension period of up to one year applies in this regard: the partnership agreement must be signed by all parties within one year of the start of the doctoral programme. If this is not (or no longer) possible, the possibility of a joint doctorate with the University of Amsterdam as a partner will no longer exist.

**Transitional arrangement for 2015**

This applies in the strictest form for all new cases. The Doctorate Board secretariat will be compiling an inventory of cases that are already in progress and those that have been announced in some way through 1 October 2015. The Rector will take a decision for each case by 1 January 2016. Cases not appearing on the inventory documented by the Doctorate Board and the faculties on 1 October 2015 will not fall under the transitional arrangement and must be in full compliance with the new operational regulations.

**Request to the dean**

According to the Doctorate Regulations, the process of arranging a joint doctorate begins with a request from the dean, as referred to in Article 6.3-4. This request must contain the following information:

1. **Personal details and CV of the doctoral candidate.** Any doctoral candidate who does not meet the legal educational requirements as formulated in Art. 7.1 must submit a
completed, signed request for exemption, accompanied by all necessary appendices, in conformity with Art. 8. At this stage, it is not necessary to present original diplomas or submit verified copies. Translations should be included where required on the exemption form.

2. **Name and location(s) of partner institution(s).** If the partner institution is not a member of LERU or Universitas 21, supporting evidence must be provided concerning the manner in which the institution meets the quality standards of the UvA (e.g. with reference to national or international rankings, visitation results).

3. **Supervisor and any co-supervisor from the UvA and the partner institution(s).** Given that each partner institution must provide a supervisor, the requirement of two supervisors is fulfilled by definition. In addition, up to two co-supervisors may be designated.

4. **Title of the research project.**

5. **Plan of Work,** including the following:
   a. substantive description of the research;
   b. manner in which supervision has been arranged in the University and the partner institution(s);
   c. schedule for the research, including specification of the periods in months that the doctoral candidate will be spending at the University and the partner institution(s). This is subject to the general requirement that a substantial portion of the research must take place at each institution.
   d. the language in which the doctoral thesis will be written: if it will not be written in Dutch or English, the case must include a request (in conformity with Art. 15.4) for permission for it to be written in another language, demonstrating the feasibility of forming a Doctorate Committee consisting of members with a sufficient command of the language to assess the doctoral thesis.
   e. if applicable, a description of the educational programme that the doctoral candidate will follow, specifying the institutions at which the various components will be followed.

6. **Intended location of the defence.** The UvA has a strong preference for holding the defence in Amsterdam.

7. **Intended language of the defence.** Cf. Point 5 sub d above and Article 36.3 of the Doctorate Regulations.

8. **Doctorate Regulations and official contact for the partner institution(s).** Information on the Doctorate Regulations of the partner institution(s), with a copy of or link to these Regulations and the name and address of an official contact person.

9. **Draft partnership agreement** with explanations of any points on which insights differ between the partner institutions.

Assessment of the request to the dean will take place under the responsibility of the Office of the Rector, as the request falls within the framework of the Doctorate Regulations and is directed to the Doctorate Board. With regard to Point 2 on the quality of any partner institution(s) that are not a member of LERU or Universitas 21, the secretariat of the Doctorate Board will request an assessment by Academic Affairs. With regard to the admissibility of the doctoral candidate (point 1), the secretariat of the Doctorate Board will perform a quick scan based on the information provided.
The further elaboration of the partnership agreement may commence after the request has been assessed. This can be a complex and time-consuming process, depending upon the extent of the differences in insight or regulations. The agreement can ultimately be signed and, if necessary, the doctoral candidate must obtain exemption from the educational requirement and submit the request for admission to the doctoral programme (cf. Doctorate Regulations, Art. 9).

Degree certificate and defence
Additional agreements between the partner institutions are needed with regard to the design of the defence and the degree certificate. These agreements will be made with the partner institution(s) by the Office of the Beadle once the partnership agreement has been signed.

Schematic checklist

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