

Developing a Toolbox for Managing International Collaborative PhD Programmes

Session 1: Where we are in terms of handling
international collaborative PhD programmes at
institutional level in SA and EU? (Part 1)

Session facilitator - Refilwe Moleyane, CUT

25th June 2019, Cape Town



YEBO!

Developing the internationalization
of PhD studies in South Africa



UNIVERSITEIT
IYUNIVESITHI
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY

100
1918-2018



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



**GHENT
UNIVERSITY**

JOINT PHD @ UGENT

YEBO! Training Session 3 / Dr. Charlotte Cailliau / June 2019

OUTLINE

1. Status Quo

- Definition
- Some figures
- Geographical distribution
- Rules and regulations
- Terms and conditions

2. Needs

3. Challenges

4. Conclusion

1. STATUS QUO

DEFINITION

A Joint PhD (= jointly supervised PhD / jointly awarded PhD / co-tutelle) means that two (or more) degree-awarding institutions take the full responsibility of supervising, coordinating and **examining** a researcher's work.

It results in a **joint or a double diploma** and is made possible through a **cooperation agreement** for the joint supervision and certification of a PhD.

❖ Examining the joint PhD

One **joint examination procedure** acknowledged by both universities

The **joint Examination Board** for the doctoral examination (i.e. the dissertation and the defence) is composed of members of all partner institutions

- the supervisors **can be part** of the board
- at least 1 external member (of both universities)
- in the event of conflicting stipulations concerning the composition of the examination board, the regulations of the institution where the public defence will take place shall take precedence

❖ Certification: a joint PhD results in a **joint or double diploma**:

– Joint diploma

- **one certificate** which is jointly awarded by the partner institutions featuring one joint doctoral title or the different doctor titles awarded by the partner institutions -> UGent title always includes qualification e.g. Doctor of Bioscience Engineering
- signed by the executive heads of all partner institutions
- the degree is prepared by the institution where the doctoral student is defending the PhD
- needs to fulfill the legal requirements on layout and content of the diploma of both universities -> complex!

– Double diploma

- each institution prepares **its own certificate**
- each diploma refers to the joint supervision of the PhD and the degree that the partner institution awards
 - > not to be mistaken for two separate degrees!

❖ Agreements

With non-European universities

A. Info Sheet New Cooperation Joint PhD

B. Framework agreement with the general provisions

C. Annex to that framework agreement for each PhD student

SOME FIGURES

- ± 44.000 students at Ghent University
- ± 5000 PhD students of whom 40% has a non-Belgian nationality
- 689 PhD's awarded in 2017
- 1362 professors in 11 faculties

❖ Defences of joint PhDs

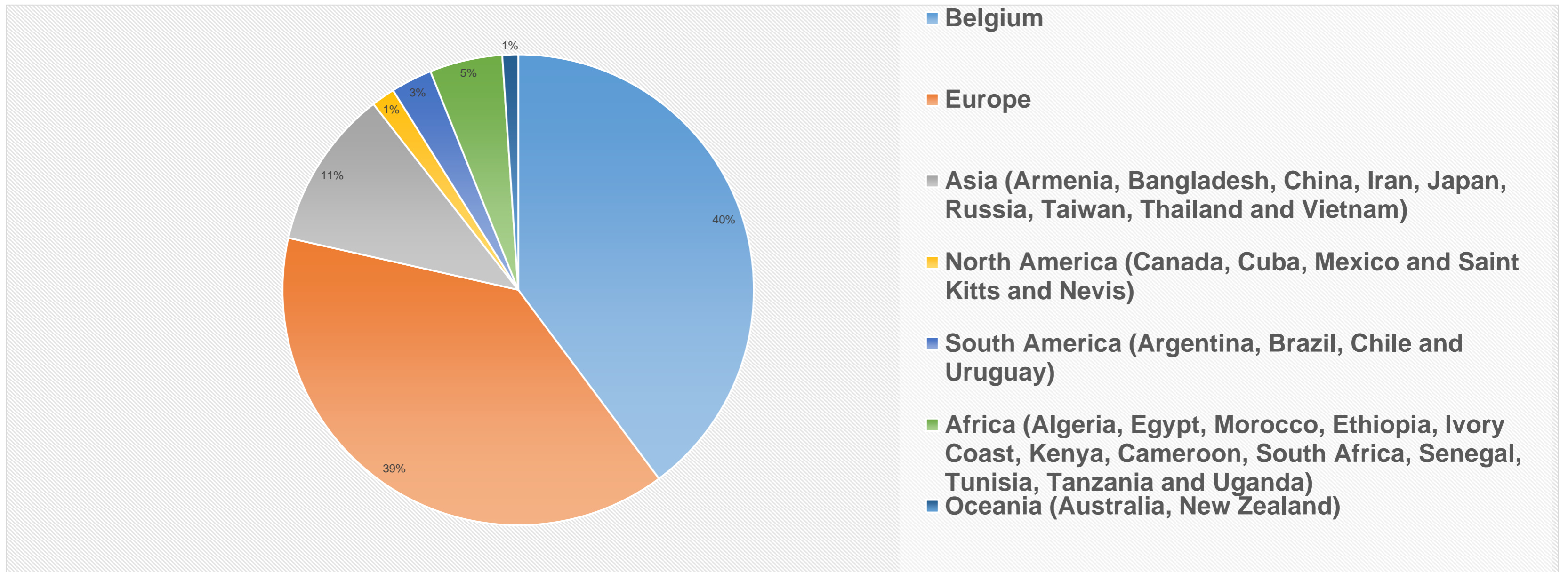
AY	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Total number of defences	2	7	9	12	14	19	25	32	30	45	53	63	73	45

- first defence of a joint PhD on 19 Mai 2006
- 1028 entries in Joint PhD database:
 - awarded (455), ongoing (456), halted (117)

- Joint PhD's with universities in South Africa: 19
 - University of Cape Town: 2 (2 ongoing)
 - Stellenbosch University: 5 (3 awarded and 2 ongoing)
 - University of Johannesburg: 2 (2 awarded)
 - University of Limpopo: 1 (1 awarded)
 - University of South Africa: 3 (1 awarded and 2 ongoing)
 - University of the Free State: 1 (1 ongoing)
 - University of the Western Cape: 3 (3 ongoing)
 - University of Witwatersrand: 1 (1 awarded)
 - University of Pretoria: 1 (1 awarded)

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Geographical distribution of Joint PhD's



RULES AND REGULATIONS

❖ Enabled by Flemish Government

In 2003 a decree was issued that restructured higher education. In 2013 that decree was entered in the **Higher Education Code**. Important articles are: II.171 and II.172 (<http://data-onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/edulex/document.aspx?docid=14650>)

- Art. II.171 §1: Two or more universities can award a **joint or double degree** and the title of doctor to a student who has successfully defended (**in public**) his or her doctoral dissertation prepared under joint supervision.
- Art. II.171 §4: Universities that offer a joint PhD to a student have to conclude an **agreement**.
- Art. II.172 §4: The examination committee is composed of members of all partner institutions and the student has to conduct research at each of the partner institutions for **at least six months**.

❖ Established and specified by decision of the Executive Board of Ghent University:

- 9 February 2006: drawing up of the regulations
- 7 April 2011: first review of the regulations → approval of the faculty necessary
- 20 February 2014: second review of the regulations → **quality care** becomes more important
- 28 September 2018: third review of the regulations → shift to Info Sheet New Cooperation Joint PhD and framework agreement for joint PhD's with 'unknown' partner institutions from outside Europe

(<http://www.ugent.be/en/education/degree/practical/studentadmin/enrolment/doctorate/joint-phd/besluitjointphd.pdf>)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- ❖ In the regulations of the UGent the terms and conditions necessary for a joint PhD are fixed
- ❖ Request for joint PhD minimum 1 year before defence
- ❖ The PhD student needs to meet a set of seven conditions

The PhD student has to:

1. be admitted to the PhD at each partner institution (**admission** procedure)
2. have a **supervisor** in each cooperating institution
3. be **formally enrolled** at each institution (+re-enrolment)
4. pay the **tuition fee** and **bench fee** at UGent (exc. CSC scholarship holders)
5. carry out research at each institution for at least **six months**
6. follow the procedure for **admission to the doctoral examination** that is in place at all the partner institutions
7. defend the PhD thesis **at one of the partner institutions**

2. NEEDS

- Detailed and clear terms and conditions
- An emphasis on quality care
- An office that can handle the workload

3. CHALLENGES

- Financial issues, f.i. with regard to the tuition fee
- The organization of the doctoral examination
 - One part / two parts?
 - Public defence or not?
 - How many members in the examination board?
- The drawing up of the degree certificate: joint/double degree
- The communication with supervisors and students

4. CONCLUSION

UGent has grown into an excellent partner for Joint PhD's

- ✓ Excellent quality of research
- ✓ Many years of experience in organizing Joint PhD's
- ✓ Three joint PhD co-ordinators to give guidance
- ✓ And ...

... we can offer a stay in the beautiful city of Ghent



❖ Contact information for follow-up:
jointPhD@UGent.be

❖ Website:

<http://www.ugent.be/en/education/degree/practical/studentadmin/enrolment/doctorate/joint-phd>

Dr. Charlotte Cailliau

Dept. of Educational Policy

E jointphd@ugent.be

T +32 9 331 00 88

 Ghent University

 @ugent

 Ghent University

www.ugent.be