

Developing a Toolbox for Managing International Collaborative PhD Programmes

International Issues

Caroline Ojwang – Acting Director: International Office
University of Cape Town

26th June 2019, Cape Town



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



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Context

South Africa's Policy Framework on the Internationalisation of Higher Education recognises student and staff mobility and international research collaboration as an integral component in the internationalisation of higher education.

Policy Framework on the Internationalisation of Higher Education makes provision for the development of Memoranda of Agreement (MoA) for collaborative offerings including several stipulations about what such an agreement should include.

UCT Strategy on Internationalisation

1.1 a Develop and implement a set of strategic and practical criteria to guide the proactive seeking of new partnerships and the acceptance of partnership requests for each broad category of collaboration (research; joint degrees; funded consortia; short-term programmes; semester study abroad). These criteria will differ from one another but should follow the research criteria

Visas

At UCT, the International Office is responsible for immigration matters pertaining to international students coming to study at the university.

Incoming mobility by international students into South Africa is facilitated by the Department of Home Affairs through the Immigration Act and its regulations.

The visa regime for outgoing mobility would be governed by national immigration regulations of the hosting institution country

- i. Whose responsibility is it to obtain a visa and what kind of visa will the student obtain for the period spent at the partner university?
- ii. Does the agreement makes provision for spouses and families what type of visas are applicable to them?
- iii. Who will assist with the visa application process – which department at the host university will provide the necessary support, letters etc?

Financial Obligations

Section 6.2. of the Policy Framework on the Internationalisation of Higher Education stipulates that the limited experience of joint offerings suggests that the financial arrangements between the partner institutions (including the liability of the student to pay fees at each institution) must be indicated in the inter-institutional Memorandum of Agreement and in the Cotutelle

- i. Will the MoU create a financial obligation for each partner?
- ii. Will the student receive a tuition fee waiver or be responsible for the payment of tuition fees?
- iii. What are the tuition waiver and fee policies at the partner institution?
- iv. Who is responsible for the student's financial obligations (e.g. travel to each institution, housing, books, living expenses, bench fees, food, clothing, passport / visa costs)?
- v. Is health insurance required at each institution? If so, how will health insurance be provided?
- vi. Are students obliged to acquire additional types of insurance eg. repatriation and housing?

Travel

According to some universities regulations, the minimum time to spend at the partner university in joint degree or cotutelle arrangements is 5 to 6 months, which may be composed of several visits.

- i. How will the doctoral candidate's study and work time be divided between the two universities?
- ii. Who will cover the students travel expenses between the partner universities?
- iii. What are the travel funding arrangements for supervisors?
- iv. Who will arrange housing and medical cover for students?
- v. What is the appropriate visa to apply for to enable repeat visits in this kind of arrangement?

Standards of conduct / Termination

Include information on code of conduct expectations and procedures for student misconduct (personal and research); guidelines related to grievance, appeal, and termination and law applicable in the event of breach of law.

- i. Which countries laws are applicable in the event of breach of law?
- ii. What are the procedures in the case of student misconduct?
- iii. Which universities regulations rules and polices area applicable in the event of misconduct?
- iv. What are the consequences of withdrawing from one of the institutions participating in the joint degree programme?
- v. Are any fees applicable?
- vi. Can the student take a leave of absence without jeopardizing his / her joint degree programme?

THANK YOU



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