

# 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



**YEBO!**

Developing the internationalization  
of PhD studies in South Africa



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

# Snapshot view of International Collaborative PhD programmes at

UCT

– status quo, needs, challenges

*Peter Meissner*

*Director of Postgraduate Studies and*

*Researcher Development*

*Professor of Medical Biochemistry*



**YEBO!**

*June 25th 2019*



# Status quo

- Small number of joint/co-badged PhD programmes in existence (i.e. under some form of signed agreement, excludes many UCT PhD students in which one or more co-supervisors may be abroad under a joint supervision arrangement)
- 12 in Research contracts office (2013-2019); Some likely in faculties, and older ones
  - Groningen, Swansea, Cote d'Azur, Brest, Bristol, Sydney, Paris, Potsdam, Chile, Toulouse, Amsterdam, Ghent
- Most involve a single student – Bristol will be 7 students
- Vary in age detail of arrangements, and diverse agreements (sometimes a framework co-operation agreement, sometimes not, some funded some not)
- Have developed a process guideline to be followed

# Needs

- Audit of joint/co-badged (active vs. dormant)
- Need for the guidelines and processes to be followed!
- Need clarity on roles of faculties vs. central UCT processes (considering autonomy of faculties)
- Clarity on where such joint PhD's should/could be administered
- Dispell ignorance on whether such cotutelle degrees are permissible

# Challenges – 1

- Different funding arrangements (different grants etc. funding different agreements)
- Expectations of students - depending on where they're from (SA, Africa or EU)
- Expectations of staff/supervisors - depending on whether in EU or UCT
- Poor understanding on the part of project leaders/academics/PI's/supervisors wrt how to develop such agreements and programmes
- Ignorance regarding the power and advantages of such joint PhD's

# Challenges – 2

- Alignment of examination requirements – notably requirement for some EU institutions to consider publication as a part of the examination requirements
- Agreement of IP/copyright issues
- Time to completion (and varied entry baseline)
- Differing styles/admin of funding between EU and SA
- Visa requirements



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

*Thank you*



**YEBO!**

