

The three European universities



**University of West Hungary, Doctoral School István Széchenyi,
Sopron, Hungary**



**University of Economics in Bratislava, Faculty for International
Relations, Bratislava, Slovak Republic**



**University Juraj Dobrila Pula, Faculty of Economics and Tourism „Dr.
Mijo Mirković“, Pula, Croatia**

and



**University of Applied Sciences Burgenland (UAS), Eisenstadt, Austria,
as an administrative and organizational partner**

herewith sign the present

AGREEMENT

on the

International Joint Cross-Border

PhD Programme in

International Economic Relations and Management

- on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding of all partner universities of June, 26, 2012, Eisenstadt, Austria;
- on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Economics in Bratislava and UAS Burgenland of July 25, 2013;
- on the basis of the Cooperation Agreement on Academic and Research between the University of West Hungary, Faculty of Economics, Sopron, Hungary, and the UAS Burgenland of July 9, 2013, and
- on the basis of the Cooperation Agreement on Academic and Research between the University of Pula, Faculty of Economics, Pula, Croatia, and the UAS Burgenland of October 16, 2013.

In order to develop further international academic opportunities for students from all EU member states and their universities, and in order to strengthen the international ties between the EU academic institutions, the signed partner universities have decided to enter this Agreement for the establishment of present International Joint Cross-Border PhD Programme, subsequently referred to as "Joint PhD programme".

1. Objectives

Present Joint PhD programme

- Is a unique doctoral cross-border programme focusing on Central and Eastern European countries;
- Is comparable to the best doctoral cross-border programmes within the EU in terms of structure and organisation;
- Is designed for those wanting to perfect their skills with recent scientific knowledge and deepen their understanding in the field of qualitative and quantitative analysis and analytical tools within the EU;
- Takes into account the specifications of small groups of PhD students, thorough fundamental knowledge, and a variety of specialisations within the EU, especially within CEE-countries;
- Allows students to closely cooperate with supervisors and other students and faculties within their respective areas of specialisation of university institutions at home or abroad;
- Allows students to become actively integrated in renowned academic institutions, being members of the European Joint PhD programmes Association in Management and Business Administration ("EDAMBA") and of the Central and South-East European PhD Network ("CESEENET").

2. Boards

The partner universities form the **Consortium**. The Consortium has its administrative and organisational seat at the University of Applied Sciences Burgenland (UAS), in Eisenstadt, Austria.

For the purpose of the implementation of this Joint PhD programme, the partner universities create a **Scientific Committee for Research and Doctoral Studies**, subsequently referred to as "**Scientific Committee**", which will represent the common responsibility of all partner universities for the present program in the kind of an autonomous academic body.

The Scientific Committee consists of at least one representative of each partner university. It shall select the **Programme Director and Head of Scientific Committee**. The programme director, **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Irena Zavrl, PhD** or her successor, shall coordinate and ensure that this Joint PhD programme is implemented and carried out according to a reasonable schematic plan with respect to the terms of this Agreement. Each institution may name a substitute or replacement of its representative. The programme director shall ensure that the partner universities have all information available and appropriate to the promotion of the Joint PhD programme.

Regular joint strategy meetings, held at least once a semester, are obligatory to reach and satisfy the needs of all partner universities with regard to cross-border cooperation and internationalisation. The partner universities are willing and ready to expand already existing multilateral academic cooperation activities.

3. Implementation

Within the framework of this agreement, a doctoral degree candidate formally enrolls and registers with the Consortium.

All partner universities agree on the mutual recognition of skills, competencies and qualifications awarded in one of them.

Attention shall be paid to the fact that

- Only part-time study is available;
- Lectures are held in English;
- The Joint PhD programme is devised to be completed within a minimum of three years (six semesters / 180 ECTS). To complete the doctoral dissertation, a student may take up to five years from the date the Consortium accepts the topic.

4. Milestones

Several measures define the minimum standards of the programme's quality assessment. They ensure important milestones of the overall project are reached at various stages of the programme:

On the program level the key elements shall be laid down:

- a detailed curriculum
- compulsory and optional courses (either with continuous assessment of student performance or examinations)
- ECTS credits
- detailed provisions on subjects and examinations
- list of professors and lecturers

On the organisational level the following shall be defined:

- persons who will be in charge of the programme
- development and implementation process
- troubleshooting and risk management
- quality management system
- clarification of all legal requirements in accordance with the respective ministries of all participating countries and their institutions
- possible number of students participating in the programme
- schedules and timetables

On the structural level it shall be clarified which kind of programme structure will best be in line with already existing degree programmes offered by the partner universities.

On state level it shall be clarified that the Joint PhD programme be legally valid in the respective home countries of the participating universities.

5. Admission

On behalf of all the partner universities, this Joint PhD programme is organized and administered by the Consortium. The first academic year of the study programme (i.e., 1st and 2nd semester) will be carried out under the responsibility of the UAS Burgenland together with lecturers from partner universities. If students pass all exams and meet all requirements set forth during the first two

semesters of the programme they become eligible to continue the Joint PhD programme at the chosen host university in Bratislava, Pula or Sopron. Students shall be screened for eligibility and nominated as doctoral candidates by the **Scientific Committee**. The Scientific Committee has to respect the admission requirements and enrolment constraints of the partner universities.

1.1. Admission Criteria

The Joint PhD programme is open to anyone who has been awarded

- A Diploma or Master´s degree or equivalent degree at an officially recognized University or University of Applied Sciences
- any other uniform Master's Degree Programme comprising an equivalent of at least 300 ECTS. and who proves English language skills at least at B2-level.

1.2. Application Procedure

The application form has to be submitted according to the application requirements of the inviting partner university.

The following documents are to be attached to the application form; all documents shall be available in English or translated into English:

- a. curriculum vitae
- b. letter of intent with specification of motivation, research orientation and the planned research field
- c. certified copy of Diploma or Master´s degree, copy of the student records and/or diploma supplement
- d. list of academic publication activities
- e. letter of recommendation.

After having submitted all application documents, the doctoral candidates are invited to a personal interview where each applicant shall present his/her CV, academic work, publication activities and research exposé, proving proficiency in the chosen topic.

1.3. Evaluation Criteria

The Scientific Committee shall consider the applicants' former activities (Diploma or Master´s degree, current academic work and publications), language proficiency, proficiency in the chosen topic and professional intelligence.

In detail, the Scientific Committee shall evaluate:

- study results
- admission interview results
- letter of motivation
- the applicants' scientific research potential (i.e. understanding of scientific research, matching areas of his/her research to research undertaken at the partner universities)
- previous research and publication activities
- English language skills.

6. Curriculum and Exams

The total academic requirement of the joint doctoral program is **180 ECTS**, determined as follows:

Subjects	Credits in						Total
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	
I. Education credits	semester						
Basic subjects	5+5	5+5	-	-	-	-	
Compulsory subjects of the programme	5	5	5	5	-	-	
Optional subjects	-	-	-	-	6	-	
Total educational credits	15	15	5	5	6	10	56
II. Research credits/Thesis work	10	10	10	10	17	17	74
III. Publication credits	Credit points according to publication activity at the end of the doctoral program (in total)						Compulsory 50
Total (obtainable credits)	30	30	30	30	30	30	180

Year 1 (semesters 1+2 at UAS Burgenland) (with professors from partner universities)

Course	Course Type	ECTS
Economic Philosophy (professor from Pula)	Compulsory	5
World Economy (professor from Bratislava)	Compulsory	5
Advanced Statistics and Multivariate Analysis (professor from Sopron)	Compulsory	5
Academic Research Methodology (professor from Sopron)	Compulsory	5
Economics of Innovation (professor from Pula)	Compulsory	5
Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy (professor from Pula)	Compulsory	5
Thesis work/Research credit		20
Publication credits		10

Year 2 (semesters 3+4 at the selected partner university)

Course	Course Type	ECTS
Seminar/Individual work with supervisor 1	Compulsory	5
Seminar/Individual work with supervisor 2	Compulsory	5
Thesis work/research credits	(2x10)	20
Publication credits	(2x15)	30

Year 3 (semesters 5+6 at the selected partner university)

Course	Course Type	ECTS
Individual work with supervisor 3	Optional	6
Active participation in scientific conferences, research Workshops, doctoral/scientific seminar	Compulsory	10
Thesis work/Research work with supervisor 4	Compulsory	17
Thesis work/Research work with supervisor 5	Compulsory	17
Publication credits		10

1.4. Criteria for Continuation of Doctoral Studies

In order to enter the second year of study, a student must complete all the required ECTS from the first year and present a draft dissertation proposal to the Scientific Committee until the end of the 2nd semester.

1.5. Research Work

Before a student may defend his/her dissertation, he/she must publish a research article (or submit confirmation that the article has been accepted for publishing) in a publication approved by the Scientific Committee.

1.6. Doctoral Exam (Rigorosum)

The comprehensive doctoral exam (rigorosum) shall bear proof of the PhD candidate's acquired knowledge in the chosen scientific field.

The rigorosum must be completed before the Scientific Committee and the public. The rigorosum, including the written elaboration of a research question and its oral presentation, must be accepted by the Scientific Committee. The PhD candidate has to be informed in writing whether or not the proposed research question has been accepted. Dispensation from the rigorosum cannot be granted.

1.7. Doctoral Thesis (Dissertation)

In order to graduate from the Doctoral PhD Study programme, a student must meet all study requirements outlined in the curriculum and successfully defend his/her doctoral thesis. Doctoral oral defences are open to the public.

The rules of process of attaining PhD grade, passing rigorosum (comprehensive exam), of the first disputation and of the public disputation as the rules of defending doctoral thesis depend on the host University and are subject to be defined by the host university.

The doctoral thesis (dissertation) has to be submitted in written form in English; the candidate shall provide in five bound copies of the doctoral thesis along with the following documents:

- the report of the supervisor and the attendance register;
- a short executive summary, maximum one page with central question(s), objective of the PhD thesis, core results and practicability
- the maximum one page long curriculum vitae written in third person singular;
- the list of publications connected to the dissertation's subject, including the off-prints of publications or together with the for the edition accepted declaration;
- the written declaration of the Director of the programme about the publication activity;
- declaration in which the joint-authors agree to use the results edited in the common publication to the doctoral dissertation.

The dissertation and the executive summary must also be submitted in electronic form.

In order to graduate from the Doctoral PhD Study programme, a student must meet all study requirements outlined in the curriculum and successfully defend his/her doctoral thesis. Doctoral oral defences are open to the public.

7. Graduation

The Joint PhD Programme degree shall only be awarded after the student has completed his/her doctoral studies and has met all requirements of the respective curriculum.

Students are awarded the degree of "**Doctor of Philosophy**", abbreviated "**PhD**", by the Scientific Committee on behalf of all partner universities.

8. Tuition Fees

At the beginning of the study programme the student shall pay to the Consortium tuition fees of 1,660,- € for each semester. Programme tuition fees may be subject to change every academic year and will be defined by the Consortium according to the tuition fees of partner universities.

Tuition fees are subject to the respective partner universities and shall be made payable to the respective institutions.

9. Duration, Amendment, Review and Termination

Present Agreement shall enter into force on March 01, 2014, and is concluded for an unlimited period of time.

Present Agreement shall be subject to revision, modification or renewal, and may be terminated at the request of either partner university, provided such request is made in writing at least six months before termination. Any termination of present agreement shall take into account the rights of students already participating in or being admitted to the programme and shall allow said students to complete the study programme.

An evaluation of present Agreement shall be initiated by the Scientific Committee when deemed appropriate.

It is up to the Scientific Committee to accept additional universities as partner universities under the conditions of present Agreement.