**Interfaculty quality criteria for Joint PhDs + legal minimal requirements to award a doctorate at UGent**

The table below gives an overview of the typical issues that need to be negotiated in a Joint PhD agreement. The second column presents the UGent quality criteria based on interfaculty regulations and/or the [Education and Examination Code for Doctoral Matters.](https://www.ugent.be/student/en/class-exam-exchange-intern/class-exam/education-examination-code/oer-doctoreren-en-20212022.pdf) The third column lists the minimal requirements for supervision, examination, and the awarding of a diploma that (joint) PhD candidates must fulfil in order to be awarded a doctor’s title at UGent. UGent cannot enter into a collaboration with partners whose own regulations are incompatible with the minimal requirements.

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| **Issue** | **Interfaculty quality criteria** | **Legal minimal requirements** |
| Admission | Joint PhD candidates follow the faculty admissions procedure. | The PhD candidate qualifies for the admission requirements as set out in the Flemish Higher Education Codex (“Codex Hoger Onderwijs”). In principle, this means they should have a Master diploma. Exceptionally—e.g. if they have completed a faculty specific pre-doctoral training programme—they may be admitted to the doctorate without a Master diploma. It is the faculty that admits the PhD candidate to the doctorate based on their admissions file and project proposal. |
| Tuition fee/ benchfee | In principle, joint PhD candidates pay the mandated tuition fees (once at first enrolment and once more before the defence), unless (exceptionally) a broader framework agreement waives the fees. A benchfee is required unless a waiver is agreed upon (only the supervisor and the Faculty can decide to waive the bench fee). | In principle, all PhD candidates pay the mandated tuition fees (once at first enrolment and once more before the defence). In exceptional cases UGent will waive the tuition fees.  The benchfee is not mandatory. |
| Doctoral training programme | In addition to the mandatory [PhD Onboarding Track](https://www.ugent.be/doctoralschools/en/administration/phd-onboarding) for PhD candidates, the doctoral training programme at UGent depends on discipline-specific regulations within each faculty. Joint PhD agreements leave space to negotiate this issue specifically, depending on the regulations in force at the relevant faculty. | None |
| Publication requirements | Publication requirements at UGent depend on the discipline-specific regulations within each faculty. Joint PhD agreements leave space to negotiate this issue specifically, depending on the regulations in force at the relevant faculty. | None |
| Supervision | All PhD candidates at UGent have at least two supervisors. For joint PhDs this criterium is realized by the need for at least one administrative supervisor at each partner institution. A broader doctoral advisory board may be assigned to the PhD candidate in question, but this does not need to be specified in the joint PhD agreement. | The joint PhD candidate has at least one supervisor with permission to supervise doctoral candidates at each of the partner institutions. |
| Research progress | At the end of each academic year, joint PhD candidates at UGent submit a self-reflection report for evaluation that determines admission to re-enrolment. This report is evaluated by the supervisors and (if applicable) the broader advisory committee. | PhD candidates must re-enroll at UGent each year. Re-enrollment is dependent on an approved self-reflection report (approval is granted by the UGent supervisor). |
| Composition of examination board | The joint examination board must contain enough (at least half) non-affiliated voting members (no co-authors, no supervision, etc.) with the relevant expertise to evaluate the dissertation. This means that at least a quarter of the examination board should be a staff member of/ be appointed by UGent, and that at least one of the voting members should be external to both UGent and the partner institution. In principle, all members of the examination board should have a PhD, but exceptions to these criteria can be approved by the faculty as part of the admission to the PhD examination. | Each partner institution must be represented among the members of the joint examination board. |
| Doctoral examination process | In principle, a joint doctoral examination always takes place in two steps, the last of which must be a joint public defence (viva), and the first of which should be a joint internal (private) defence or at least a joint reading committee (unless the partner compulsorily cannot accept a first examination step). The candidate must be admitted to the defence at both institutions. | At a minimum, the doctoral examination consists of a public defence. |
| Human rights |  | UGent reserves the right to refuse collaboration with partner institutions whose policy is in violation of UGent’s [Human Rights Policy.](https://www.ugent.be/en/ghentuniv/mission/human-rights) |