



Memorandum of understanding

This memorandum of understanding (MoU) is between

Jimma University (JU)

Located in Jimma City, Oromia Regional State, PO Box 378, Ethiopia

And

Ghent University (UGent)

Located in Gent, Sint Pietersnieuwstraat 25, 9000 Gent, Belgium



Preamble

Realizing the potential of north-south collaboration in promoting exchange of knowledge, expertise, and technology for global economic, social and environmental development that is inclusive and sustainable,

Cognizant of the considerable human and institutional capacity that has been created in Flanders, Belgium as a result of 10 years of productive collaboration between JU and Flanders, through a VLIR-UOS funded IUC project coordinated by Ghent University (2007-2016) and the importance of leveraging this capacity to promote socio-economic development in general and the impact on the higher education sector in Ethiopia in particular,

Understanding the role of UGent and JU collaboration for maintaining the network of university collaboration in terms of creating national capacity and producing scientific outputs that contribute to socio-economic development of Ethiopia

Considering the rapid expansion of higher education in Ethiopia and the challenges the sector is facing in availing qualified human power and creating research facility that support graduate level education,

This MoU replaces the MoU signed by the Federal Ministry of Education of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia—MOSHE [now Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MOSHE)], UGent, and JU, on November 19th 2015 and is based on a Funding Agreement between MoE/now MOSHE and JU to support the capacity building program titled: “**Network for Advancement of Sustainable Capacity in Education and Research in Ethiopia – NASCERE**”, signed on February 2017 in Addis Ababa.

The areas and the conditions are described in the following sections.

Article 1 : Purpose

The purpose of this MoU is to continue institutional collaboration between JU and the Flemish universities through a framework coordinated by UGent in the north and JU in the south to engage in joint PhD research, collaborative projects and exchange of faculty staff and students to promote exchange of knowledge, contribute to scientific progress and foster capacity building. The two institutions shall serve as hubs/coordinators in their respective countries in a consortium of partner universities from their home country

Article 2 : Nature of the program

The two universities, JU and UGent, will coordinate the joint PhD programs in their respective countries. JU will coordinate the joint PhD programs from Ethiopian side and UGent will coordinate the program from the Flemish side. The venue for the defence and the mechanism for offering the degree is agreed individually with each partner university. Upon completion of the study the degree offered, be it double or joint, will be recognized by both partner universities. Issues pertaining to the examination procedure shall be agreed on case-by-case basis between JU and the respective Flemish partner university.



The PhD candidates will have promoters from both Flemish universities and JU. The promoters will jointly supervise the overall PhD work of the candidate including the field activities. If no local promoter can be found at JU, PhD advisors can be appointed from any Ethiopian university.

A minimum stay in Belgium for a joint PhD needs to be six months (during the period of the PhD preparation). The maximum duration of a PhD study is generally four years.

The foreseen period of stay in Belgium is 12 months (4 times 90 days), but can be extended up to maximum 18 months based on a motivated request of both promoters and after approval of the North and South coordinators. The coordinators of the program shall develop a guideline regarding how request for extension can be handled and provide conditions under which such requests can be granted.

Article 3 : Selection of the candidates

Candidates for the joint PhD program are selected from JU's PhD candidate pool, based on merit in a transparent way that involves both Flemish and Ethiopian promoters. The vacancy for PhD positions is publicly announced in JU. Academic and scholarly qualities of the candidate shall be the key factors in the selection decision of the promoters.

The call for PhD topics is open every year. Topics can be put forward by potential PhD promoters from both JU and the Flemish Universities. A selection of PhD topics and PhD candidates is made by the North and South coordinators and the PhD promoters, respectively.

If no suitable candidates are found for certain topics, the topic will also be open to PhD students from other Ethiopian universities who are already registered in one of PhD programs of JU.

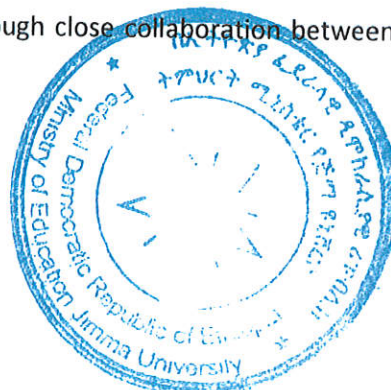
In view of the end date of the Funding Agreement (see Article 9) and to allow all students to end their PhD within the duration of the Funding Agreement, remaining PhD studies will start in 2021, 2022 and 2023 at a pace of at least 25 students per year.

The MOSHE can be consulted in the selection and admission of PhD candidates admitted to the joint PhD programs to ensure equity, relevance and quality; it oversees the progress of the program in collaboration with other partners.

Article 4 : Design and delivery

The PhD programs are delivered jointly using faculty coming from JU (If no local promoter can be found at JU, PhD advisors can be appointed from any Ethiopian university, Article 2) and the five Flemish Universities (UGent, VUB, UHasselt, UAntwerp, KULeuven), whereby minimum 50% of the PhD's is allocated to the coordinating Flemish university (UGent).

The joint PhD research projects will be developed through close collaboration between JU and the Flemish Universities.



Article 5 : Service to the PhD candidates

The PhD candidates enrolled in the joint programs will have full access to facilities and services provided by JU and the Flemish Universities. The candidates are considered and registered as students in both institutions and have the rights and privileges of a PhD student in both institutions.

Article 6 : Financial responsibilities of the parties

The cost of the joint PhD programs is shared between JU and the Flemish partner university agreeing to be part of the program.

Accordingly, JU will cover through the NASCERE programme the transport and stipend costs of the PhD candidate. This includes 4 flight tickets (over a 4 years' period), 150€ indirect travel cost per year, a scholarship of 1500€ per month (but calculated according to the number of days in Belgium), enrolment fees for the PhD programme at the Flemish Universities, and insurance costs during the candidate's stay in Belgium.

The promoters at the Flemish universities cover operational costs related to the PhD research and the costs associated with required mobility of the supervising Belgian promoter.

The candidates will be paid their full salary during their stay in Ethiopia and half of their salary while they are in Belgium. The budget from the Ministry shall be used only for their stay in the Flemish University and to cover the transport costs.

Article 7 : Duties of a candidate of a joint PhD program

The candidate has to sign a contract of commitment with JU to serve the institution after completing her or his studies. The candidate has the obligation to respect academic and administrative rules and regulations of JU and of the host institute while being in Belgium.

Article 8 : Monitoring and evaluation

Both JU and UGent will establish a joint steering committee that oversees effective implementation of the program. The steering committee will meet regularly to monitor the progress and discuss on evaluation reports of the program. There will be a meeting at least once a year to discuss the progress and if needed adjust the program.

Article 9 : Duration

This MoU will remain effective from 1 January 2021 till December 31, 2026 from the date of signing and is subject to renewal at the end of the period with consent of all parties.

Article 10 : Non-exclusivity

Parties to this MoU have full right to engage in similar agreements with other institutions in the areas covered by this MoU or beyond.



Article 11 : Amendment

This MoU can be amended when it is deemed necessary by all parties considering unforeseen circumstances, new development, or emerging opportunities. The amendment shall be agreed to and signed by all parties.

Article 12 : Termination

The MoU can be terminated with six months advance advice from any of the parties. However, such termination shall happen in a way that will not adversely affect the ongoing PhD studies.

Jimma University

Name:

Position:

Signature:

**Jemal Abafita (PhD)
President**



Date:

Ghent University

Name: Rik Van de Walle

Position: Rector

Signature:



For the rector,
Dirk De Craemer
dr. Dirk De Craemer
head of Research Co-ordination Office
Ghent University

Date: 02/06/2020

Name:

Position:

Signature:

**Kora Tushune
V/President for Business
and Development**



Date:

Name: Pascal Boeckx

Coordinator NASCERE program

Signature:



Date: 02/06/2020