



## Guidance - choice of collaboration resulting in a joint or double degree at doctoral level at Umeå University

Umeå University may under certain circumstances enter into research/educational collaborations with other Swedish or foreign universities with the aim of awarding a joint or double degree at doctoral level.

The prerequisites for participating in collaborations resulting in a joint or double degree at doctoral level are regulated by the Higher Education Act, the Higher Education Ordinance, and the *Regulations for study at doctoral level at Umeå University, the Administrative Procedure for the participation of Umeå University in collaborations with other universities resulting in a joint degree at doctoral level*, and the *Administrative Procedure for the participation of Umeå University in collaborations with other universities resulting in a double degree at doctoral level*.

This guidance must be taken into consideration before planning takes place regarding Umeå University's educational collaborations resulting in a double or joint degree at doctoral level.

### **Definition of double degree and joint degree**

The Higher Education Act states that a joint degree refers to a qualification which may be awarded by higher education institutions that have organised courses and programmes as part of an educational collaboration resulting in the award of such a qualification (Chap 1, Section 17). Jointly organised courses and programmes will have been implemented by the universities participating in the collaboration. The Higher Education Act and Higher Education Ordinance regulate which requirements must be fulfilled as part of these educational collaborations.

The Recommendations 2013:1 of the Association of Swedish Higher Education (SUHF) regarding a joint degree at doctoral level state that: "The term joint degree refers in principle to a study programme which is developed or provided jointly by two or more higher education institutions and which results in a degree certificate. The term double degree refers to a study programme which is developed or provided jointly by two or more higher education institutions and which results in two or more degree certificates, in practice one at each of the collaborating higher education institutions."

### **Comparison between a double and a joint degree**

Collaborations between Umeå University and other universities allow the doctoral student, depending on the type of collaboration, to receive a joint or a double degree. Collaborations between Umeå University and other universities may also mean that the doctoral student undertakes part of his or her studies or research at another university, but without the aim of being awarded a double or a joint degree. Such a collaboration means that the doctoral student receives a so-called single degree.



### *Double degree*

Collaboration may result in a double degree in those cases where it is entered into as a research collaboration and involves only a small number of doctoral students who are intended to participate in the mutual research project. In these cases, the collaboration is focused on research collaboration and not an educational collaboration.

### *Joint degree*

An educational collaboration may result in a joint degree where there is an interest in creating a long-term educational structure which involves several doctoral students over a long period of time. In these cases, the collaboration is focused primarily on educational collaboration and not on research collaboration.

The most obvious difference between a double degree and a joint degree is that the latter involves doctoral students being examined and awarded with a joint degree certificate which has the logos of all the collaborating universities.

The awarding of a joint degree stipulates that this must consist of jointly organised courses and programmes that fulfil the requirements set out in the laws and regulations governing courses and programmes at the collaborating universities.

Educational collaboration that results in joint qualifications involves a greater amount of administration at all levels. It is therefore important to consider carefully how such collaboration should be organised.

## **Guidance – questions that determine whether a collaboration being entered into has the aim of a joint degree or a double degree.**

- Is the planned collaboration in accordance with Umeå University's strategies?
- Will the planned collaboration benefit Umeå University and its work?
- Do the intended collaborating universities offer research and education which is of high quality and sufficient scope and is stable?



- Has the work of preparation and organisation been carried out with regard to the extra administration involved in undertaking the collaboration?
- Are the legislation, regulations and local regulations governing the courses and programmes at doctoral level at the intended collaborating universities compatible with Umeå University's regulations?

### **Guidance – questions that determine whether the intended collaboration shall apply to a joint degree or a double degree**

- What kind of collaboration is being sought? Mainly an educational collaboration or mainly a research collaboration?  
(If an educational collaboration = a joint degree; if a research collaboration = a single/double degree)
- Will the collaboration include several doctoral students?  
(If YES, a joint degree, if NO, a single/double degree.)
- Will the collaboration be long-term and include several admission rounds of doctoral students?  
(If YES, a joint degree, if NO, a single/double degree.)
- Can joint educational goals/intended learning outcomes be formulated for these courses and programmes? See the Higher Education Ordinance, Appendix 2.  
(If YES; this is possible for a joint degree; if NO, maybe a single/double degree.)

The following documents are available for further planning:

Administrative Procedure for Umeå University's participation in educational collaborations with other universities resulting in a joint degree at doctoral level

Administrative Procedure for Umeå University's participation in collaborations with other universities resulting in a double degree at doctoral level