International Joint PhD or “cotutelle”

*Improving student experience*

*Fostering international collaboration*

November 22, 2012
1- What is a cotutelle?

2- What are the benefits of a cotutelle?

3- Practical aspects

4- Challenges and recommendations
1- What is a cotutelle?

An international PhD diploma jointly awarded by two universities in two different countries

- Joint supervision
- Registration in both universities
- Alternation of stays in both countries
- One defence
- Double / joint PhD diploma
1- What is a cotutelle?

Cotutelle is NOT

• Only a joint supervision.
• Two degrees for a single work.

Cotutelle IS

✓ A joint recognition of the work accomplished by the student (joint supervision, double/joint PhD).
✓ A tool for strengthening research collaboration.
✓ A “win–win” collaboration between Canadian universities and foreign institutions.
✓ A possibility for students to discover different ways of doing research in another country and to gain international experience.
Cotutelle at a glance

Joint research project
Stays in both countries

French Research team
French University

Specific Cotutelle agreement
Joint examination process

Joint supervision
Enrolled in

Canadian research team
Canadian University
2- The Benefits of a Cotutelle

Benefits for the Cotutelle student:

★ Enriching your research
★ Creating an international network
★ Adaptability/Employability
★ Becoming a global researcher / global citizen
2- The Benefits of a Cotutelle

Value-added for teams and universities involved. Offers possibilities to:

- increase, structure and highlight international scientific cooperation between France or Europe and Canada, by means of balanced student mobility.
- expand Higher Education relations between French and Canadian universities.
- increase universities’ attractiveness by proposing international PhD programs and raise their visibility internationally.
A growing success among Canadian universities, from coast to coast
Each cotutelle PhD is made official by a “Cotutelle Convention” signed by the partner institutions. Therefore, each convention is different as it is adapted to individual students.
3- Practical aspects

**Duration**

PhD in Cotutelle is like a normal PhD (4 years) with time shared between the 2 countries - Typically at least one year is spent in the partner institution (in one or several periods of residence). The cotutelle agreement should be signed within the first year of the PhD.

**Academic Requirements**

The requirements of each institution (other than the writing of the thesis) such as mandatory courses, seminars, comprehensive exams, must be specified in the cotutelle Convention and adapted for each student.
Tuition fees

A student can’t be required to pay tuition fees in two institutions simultaneously. He/she pays fees either at the institution where he/she is physically present or at his/her “home institution”.

Defence

The PhD thesis is defended only once. The jury is composed of individuals from both institutions and one external examiner. Requirements from both universities concerning the defence are generally added, with adapted rules about the use of languages.
Language

- A PhD dissertation can be written and defended in English at a French university. Cotutelle is possible even if you’re not fluent in French, but you’ll certainly be fluent at the end of it!

Other clauses

- Clauses about intellectual property, health insurance, housing, etc. are generally added to the Convention.
Funding Opportunities: French Embassy

Scholarships for Canadian students
- CAD$1,680 monthly allowance (8 months)
- Canada-France roundtrip airfare
- Tuition fees for the French institution
- Health insurance

Invitations to France for Canadian researchers / Study trips to Canada for French researchers
- Canada-France roundtrip airfare
- Per diem

Can be used by supervisors to finalize the cotutelle Convention

More information: www.ambafrance-ca.org
Other Funding Opportunities

• FCRF cotutelle scholarship
  12 months + plane ticket
• Eiffel scholarships (French Foreign Affairs Ministry)
  1400€ monthly allowance, plane ticket, health insurance
• Funding from French local governments
  Funding for PhD students available from Alsace (Strasbourg), Ile-de-France (Paris), Midi-Pyrénées (Toulouse), Rhône-Alpes (Lyon, Grenoble); Lorraine (Nancy)…
• Funding from French Research Institutions
  INRIA (Computer Science), CNES (Space Studies), ADEME (environment and energy), IFREMER (oceanography)
• Canada Tri-council Graduate Scholarships - Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements
  Up to $6000
Numerous other funding opportunities on www.canada.campusfrance.org

> 106 grants found (106/319) For the full number of grant programs, please consult the French version.

- Programme de bourses d'études supérieures du Canada - Suppléments pour études à l'étranger Michael-Smith
  Supplements of up to $6,000 will be awarded to active CGS Master’s, CGS Doctoral or Vanier CGS holders to help offset the costs—including travel and accommodation—of undertaking research studies outside Canada for a defined period.

- Strategic Project Grants Program (SPG) France - Canada
  The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) in France support high-quality joint research projects.

- French Government grants from the French Embassy in Canada
  These grants are from the Science and Technology Service of the Embassy of France in Canada. They include a monthly living allowance of €1,060.

- France Canada Research Fund Joint PhD (cotutelle) scholarship - Canada *EN*
  The “FCRF cotutelle scholarship” funds stays in France (return plane ticket and monthly allowances) of a Canadian PhD student inscribed in cotutelle between a French Establishment and a Canadian University member of the FFCR consortium.

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- Canada - European Union Program for Cooperation in Higher Education, Training and
4- Challenges and recommendations

- Finding TWO supervisors who will get along…
- Long-term planning / logistics
- Funding
- Paperwork
How mobile am I?

Geographically?
Intellectually?
Culturally?
THANK YOU!

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