



CHALMERS



NTNU

Communication on PhD Collaboration and Joint Supervision in Nordic Five Tech from the Rectors of the alliance

To Deans of Research, Heads of PhD programmes, supervisors and others

Nordic Five Tech is an exclusive, strategic alliance of the five leading technical universities in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The alliance shares a vision of an “extended campus” where staff and students can benefit from the specialized competences, advanced infrastructures and unique educational offers of the partners.

In 2015, the Rectors signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration at the PhD level relating to supervision and assessment, specialized courses and infrastructure, as well as quality assurance.

As a concrete measure to stimulate collaboration between PhD programmes and encourage PhD candidates to take specialized courses at the partner universities, the alliance has launched a Nordic Five Tech PhD Course Database. The alliance also encourages collaboration on joint courses and sharing of information on PhD summer schools and conferences of the partner universities.

In this communication, we particularly wish to promote co-supervision and exchange of PhD candidates within the alliance. Entering into double degree / joint degree / co-supervision agreements are indeed possible, and a mapping of regulations are available on the alliance website to facilitate such agreements. However, many of the same positive effects can be reached by including supervision and mobility with a Nordic Five Tech partner in the candidates’ regular PhD Agreement.

How this can be done, is outlined on the next page.

*The Rectors of Aalto, Chalmers, DTU, KTH and NTNU.
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Alliance website with N5T PhD Administrative contact persons

<http://www.nordicfivetech.org/joint-projects/phd-collaboration>

N5T PhD Course Database

<http://www.phdcourses.nordicfivetech.org/>

Outline for PhD co-supervision and mobility between Nordic Five Tech partners

1. Organisation of the Doctorate

The doctoral candidate at the Home university is assigned a Nordic Five Tech Host university for co-supervision and mobility in their institutional PhD Agreement. Doctoral candidates are recommended to spend 6-12 months at their Host University.

2. Duties

According to its own rules the Home University should:

- take charge of all the administrative and financial aspects of the doctorate, which includes application and registration, annual review, final examination, etc.
- nominate a Main Supervisor and, in collaboration with the Host University, a Co-Supervisor for each doctoral candidate.

The Host University should take responsibility for:

- offering all the facilities necessary to carry out the additional research programme agreed with the Home University;

3. Review of the doctoral training

A Doctoral Project Description should be prepared for each doctoral candidate at least 6 months before the exchange(s). This description should outline the aim and the objectives of the overall research collaboration and contain a plan of collaboration to be undertaken at the involved universities.

The Supervisors should periodically monitor the research and training activities of the doctoral candidate both at the Home University and at the Host University according to the procedures in force at the Home University. The criteria for the evaluation should account for:

- progress of the doctoral project;
- progress in the course of studies of the Home University;
- attendance of conferences, courses, seminars and workshops;
- progress reports or paper publications;
- bibliographic research activities.

4. Thesis dissertation and doctoral degree award

The doctoral degree should be awarded by the Home University following the local rules and regulations for the thesis dissertation and degree award.

The examiners of the doctoral thesis should be designated by the Home University. Examiners should be chosen for their competence of relevance to the thesis. They should be impartial and represent the international research community to ensure that the degree holds an international quality level.

The contributions of the Host University should be acknowledged in the thesis and on the diploma certificate in an appropriate manner according to the practises and templates of the Home University.