

Maynooth University

Graduate Studies

THE EUROPEAN DOCTORATE

The Graduate Studies Office has investigated and developed a means for PhD students who have a strong European Language element to their research to gain a European Doctorate. Students wishing to register for the European Doctorate should agree a change in registration at the time of their 3rd Year Annual Review with their Departmental Panel. There will involve an additional cost of €500 for examination for the European Doctorate.

THE EUROPEAN DOCTORATE – AN OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The European Doctorate, or 'Doctor Europeus' was introduced as a formal concept by the Joint Committee of the Confederation of the European Union Rectors' Conferences (the pre-runner to the European Universities' Association upon merging with the Association of European Universities in 2001). The intention is to promote mobility in the PhD process, as well as creating better networking opportunities between scholars and institutions throughout Europe.

CRITERIA

To qualify for a European Doctorate, the candidate must fulfil certain criteria upon presentation of their thesis:

The PhD thesis defence will be accorded if at least two professors from two higher education institutions of two European countries, other than the one where the thesis is defended, have given their review of the manuscript;

At least one member of the jury should come from a higher education institution in another European country, other than the one, where the thesis is defended;

A part of the defence must take place in one of the official languages, other than the one(s) of the country, where the thesis is defended;

The thesis must partly have been prepared as a result of a research period of at least one trimester (or three months) spent in another European Country.

FUNDING

There is no funding associated directly with this agreement, however under the current terms and conditions for the major funding agencies such as IRCHSS and IRCSET, this European Doctorate model should not cause any problems.

The candidate would be responsible for securing their own funding under this programme.

REGISTRATION

The student would be registered at the Home institution, as they would only be a visiting student at the host institution during the overseas portion of the research.

Ideally, the student should declare in their initial application to the Institution for the PhD that they intend to go for the European Doctorate. However, there are currently no administrative processes that would prevent a student already registered for a PhD to elect to go for the European Doctorate assessment.

Who does this apply to?

This can apply to any student who fulfils the criteria, but in particular may be applicable to:

Language students who complete some time overseas

Any examples where a student must complete field work in an EU country where English is not the first language, and a competence in the language is required:

For example

- History
- Anthropology
- Ancient Classics
- Philosophy
- Sciences (overseas lab work comprising more than 3 months)
- Sociology
- Geography

(This list is an example; other departments may have arguments for granting European Doctorates)

Other Institutions tend to associate these European Doctorates with a particular PhD Programme (for example, in Uni of Manchester the model they use is the EXPERT programme. In Cambridge, this is the EDGE programme)

ASSESSMENT

The assessment for the PhD takes place as is normal at the Home Institution, with additional requirements.

In addition to the main External Examiner, two further external examiners are required to make a report on the thesis. They are not necessarily required to attend the viva, and therefore assessment of the thesis can be done remotely, prior to the viva.

The Viva must be held in part in the 2nd language

European Doctorate

The Thesis must be submitted either fully in the 2nd language with a summary in English, or vice versa, where a level of competence in the 2nd language is evident.

The awarding of the European Doctorate Certificate is done solely by the lead institution in which the student was registered. It is the responsibility of this Institution to ensure that the 4 criteria have been met.

The cost of the assessment, including the additional examiners, must be borne by the Lead Institution. There does not appear to be a standard practice regarding payments made to the additional external assessors; however where payment is made, it is usually minimal as the assessment is done remotely and therefore would not normally incur travel costs.

ADDITIONAL READING:

“Guidance for European Doctorates”, University of Manchester, Research Office – Graduate Education Team, November 2007:

<http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/researchoffice/graduateeducation/g-eurodoc.pdf>

“European Doctoral Programme”, University of Alicante website:

<http://www.ua.es/en/cedip/doctorat/alumno/tesis/#europeo>

“The European Doctorate – Some Myths and Realities”, Estelle Kane, UK Research Office & Dr. Emiliano Rustighi, University of Southampton

Presentation at UKGrad 2005 conference:

<http://www.grad.ac.uk/downloads/documents/Conference%202005/Workshop%20slides/09%20Kane%20Rustighi%20slides.pdf>

VERSION HISTORY

Version	Date	Summary	Changed by
1	Prior to 2008	Approved by Academic Council	