EGS-ABG Doctoral Candidate Agreement

The goal of this Agreement is to formalize in a single document the full set of recommendations to be followed by the different parties involved in conducting a doctoral program within the Erasmus-Mundus Joint Doctorate "EGS-ABG". The aim is to better define and attribute the roles and responsibilities of each participant throughout the thesis. This charter applies to all doctoral candidates, supervisors, heads of host labs, teacher-researchers and researchers of the host labs (i.e. the labs where the research is undertaken), and staff of the graduate schools.

This Agreement pre-dates the employment contract to be signed, by EMJD fellowship recipients only, between the doctoral candidate and the "first" host Institution. It specifies the nature of information to which each of the parties has a right at the beginning of a PhD program. It highlights the necessity for all parties to clearly inform themselves and one another of their respective goals, rights and obligations before, during and after the period of program.

Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be so construed or interpreted in any way as to diminish or alter the rights of the European Commission as set out in the contracts between EGS-ABG and the European Commission.

This Agreement is signed by the doctoral candidate, the two thesis supervisors and the EGS-ABG Coordinator.

OVERVIEW

Doctoral Candidate	Family name: First name:
PhD project topic	

	First Institution (employer)	Second Institution
Name of the Institution Name of supervisors Head of the host lab		

Dates of the program	Start: mm/yyyy	End: mm/yyyy
Type of fellowship (EMJD fell. recipient)	Category X – lab based	
Associate Partner involved (if relevant)		

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

1.1. The PhD programme runs for the duration stated in the Overview above.

2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONSORTIUM "EGS-ABG"

With his signature below, the EGS-ABG coordinator confirms that the Consortium is obliged to:

2.1. deliver the joint programme as described in the consortium website and the fellowship application (content, calendar, structure, degrees awarded, participation costs, etc);

2.2. if applicable, provide the doctoral candidate with the relevant "student/doctoral candidate handbooks" (/code of conduct) to be followed;

2.3. inform the doctoral candidate about its performance evaluation methodologies, the criteria and timetable applied by the Consortium, as well as the performance threshold to be reached in order to continue participation in the joint programme;

2.4. inform the doctoral candidate about the conditions and timetable for "re-sits";

2.5. make sure that each Partner Institution offers to the doctoral candidate all the normal services offered to their local students (e.g. language courses, libraries, social services, internet, sport facilities, social security, insurance, etc.);

2.6. inform fellowship holders about the payment method and timetable;

2.7. provide the doctoral candidate with the necessary support to facilitate his/her mobility to, and installation in the different hosting institutions.

The above requirements can be understood as representing the doctoral candidate's rights vis-à-vis the Consortium.

3. OBLIGATIONS OF THE DOCTORAL CANDIDATE

With his/her signature, the doctoral candidate confirms to have read and be familiar with the EGS-ABG rules for supervision and awarding doctoral candidates (attached to the present agreement) that explicitly states supervisor and candidate expectations to supervision over the entire four year study programme.

The doctoral candidate is obliged to:

3.1. attend and actively participate in the joint programme (lectures, seminars, training courses, etc.) in accordance with the relevant requirements;

3.2. respect the relevant "students/doctoral candidate handbook" (/code of conduct) in place in the host institutions;

3.3. deliver the expected outputs (/projects, essays, publications, etc.) in accordance with the joint programme's requirements;

3.4. reach the expected performance results in order to be allowed to continue participating in the joint programme

3.5. (for fellowship holders only) accept that the fellowship will be withdrawn if his/her obligations as a participant have not been met.

The above requirements can be understood as representing the Consortium's rights vis-a-vis the doctoral candidate.

4. OBLIGATIONS OF THE SUPERVISORS

With their signature, the supervisors confirm to have read and be familiar with the EGS-ABG rules for supervision and awarding doctoral candidates (attached to the present agreement) that explicitly states supervisor and candidate expectations to supervision over the entire four year study programme.

The two supervisors, clearly identified from the beginning of the programme and fully responsible vis-à-vis the doctoral candidate and the Consortium, are obliged to:

4.1. provide favourable conditions of supervision to the doctoral candidate during the whole duration of his/her programme;

4.2. produce, together with the doctoral candidate (who is in charge), a documented update after two years of his/her progress and his/her individual training plan for the EGS-ABG Education Committee to validate the programme;

5. ETHICAL CONDUCT/GUIDELINES

5.1. With his/her signature below, the Doctoral Candidate confirms that he/she will read and adhere to any EGS-ABG Ethical Guidelines issued by the EGS-ABG Executive Board.

6. TERMINATION

6.1. Unless the regulations of the first host institution prescribe a different procedure, EGS-ABG or the doctoral candidate may terminate this Agreement for any breach of the obligations set out in this Agreement by giving ninety (90) days written notice to the other of their intention to terminate. The notice includes a detailed statement describing the nature of the breach. Mediation based on national legislation of the first host institution must start immediately (see § 7).

6.2. If the breach is remedied within the ninety day notice period then the termination does not take effect. If the breach is of a nature such that it can be fully remedied but not within the ninety day notice period then termination will also not be effective if either party begins to remedy the breach within that period and then continues diligently to remedy the breach until it is remedied fully. If the breach is incapable of remedy, then the termination takes effect at the end of the ninety day notice period in any event.

6.3. EGS-ABG shall inform the European Commission of any reason for termination of this Agreement.

7. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND MEDIATION PROCEDURES

7.1. Individual PhD Projects will be governed by the national law of the first host institution. Required contracts will be settled between doctoral candidates and their “first” host institution. A copy of the contracts shall by send to the consortium.

7.2. All conflicts will be settled locally by mediation, according to the regulations and laws of the host institutions.

7.3. In the case of impossibility to solve the conflict locally at the host institutions, the EGS-ABG Executive Board appoints a mediator who will meet all involved parties, and propose solutions and gain the acceptance by all concerned to assure completion of the thesis. Assuming the role of mediator implies impartiality.

Signature of the doctoral candidates and supervisors

As, respectively, doctoral candidate and supervisors, we do hereby attest to our common commitment to participate in the personalized doctoral program as defined in the present charter. We attest to having full knowledge of the scientific, intellectual and human commitments we are taking by engaging in this work. By our respective signatures we do hereby promise to respect the contents of this document.

Doctoral candidate

Family name:

First name:

Date:

Signature:

Supervisor from the “first” host institution

Family name:

First name:

Position and Institution:

Date:

Signature:

Supervisor from the “second” host institution

Family name:

First name:

Position and Institution:

Date:

Signature:

Signature of the EGS-ABG Coordinator

As coordinator of the Erasmus-Mundus Joint Doctoral program EGS-ABG, I do hereby attest that the EGS-ABG Executive Board, with full knowledge of the before mentioned doctoral program and in agreement with the contents of the present charter, accepts the enrolment in doctoral studies of:

M / Miss / Mrs ……

VERRIER Etienne

Professor at AgroParisTech

EGS-ABG Coordinator

Date:

Signature: