STU

Rector's Directive
No.: 9/2025– SR

Rules for the Preparation, Implementation, and Funding of Doctoral Studies under Joint Supervision between the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and a Foreign Partner Institution

Date: December 19, 2025

STU

Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Vazovova 5, Bratislava

In Bratislava, 19 December 2025
Number: 9/2025-SR

The Rector of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava in accordance with the Long-Term Plan of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and in line with Section 1(4)(k) and Section 54(19)(20) of the Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on universities and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended and in line with Article 3 Clause 1 (b) of the Rector's Directive No. 4/2013-SR „Rules for issuing internal regulations of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava" as of 03 October 2013, herewith issues the following Rector's Directive

Rules for the Preparation, Implementation, and Funding of Doctoral Studies under Joint Supervision between the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and a Foreign Partner Institution

Article 1
Initial Provisions

1. The Rector's Directive "Rules for the Preparation, Implementation, and Funding of Doctoral Studies under Joint Supervision between the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and a Foreign Partner Institution" (hereinafter referred to as the "Directive") is a guideline of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (hereinafter referred to as "STU") issued by the Rector regulating:
   a) the procedure for the implementation of doctoral studies under joint supervision,
   b) the rules for concluding an individual Cotutelle Agreement on Joint Supervision of Doctoral Thesis,
   c) and the financing of doctoral studies under joint supervision.

2. The doctoral studies under joint supervision between STU and a foreign partner institution (hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Partner Institutions") strengthens the international character, enhances the quality of research, and supports the exchange of experience and academic mobility. A graduate of doctoral studies under joint supervision obtains a full-fledged third-cycle higher education qualification from both Partner Institutions.

3. During the course of the joint supervision of the doctoral thesis, the student (hereinafter also referred to as the "doctoral student") is enrolled at both Partner Institutions and has the same rights and obligations as students of the respective Partner Institutions.

Article 2
Preparation of the Individual Cotutelle Agreement

1. For each doctoral study under joint supervision, an individual Cotutelle Agreement on Joint Supervision of Doctoral Thesis (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") shall be

concluded. The Agreement shall govern the conditions and schedule of study as well as the conditions for the thesis defense.

2. The draft agreement shall be prepared by the person bearing primary responsibility for the relevant doctoral study programme at STU (the study program guarantor), together with the supervisor, in cooperation with the foreign partner institution and in coordination with the Vice-Dean responsible for doctoral studies at the relevant faculty of STU.

3. The Agreement shall contain at least the following mandatory particulars:

a) the name and registered office of the Partner Institutions and the names and surnames of their statutory representatives,
b) the title of the thesis and the language in which the thesis shall be written and defended,
c) the names and surnames of the supervisors from both Partner Institutions,
d) the doctoral student's activities at both Partner Institutions and the precise duration of stays at each Partner Institution in accordance with the individual study plan, which forms an annex to the Agreement,
e) conditions governing tuition fees and other study-related fees and the provision of a scholarship,
f) the place of the thesis defense,
g) rules for the establishment of the defense jury,
h) information on the issuance of documents certifying completion of studies by both Partner Institutions, which shall include information on the joint supervision of the doctoral thesis and the name and registered office of the Partner Institution,
i) provisions governing the handling of intellectual property rights arising during the doctoral studies,
j) information on the number of copies to be provided for each Partner Institution and for the doctoral student.

4. The Agreement template forms Amendment No. 1 to this Rector's Directive. It is also possible to use a draft agreement provided by the Partner Institution; however, the Agreement must contain all the particulars listed in Clause 3 of this Article.

5. If the Agreement is drawn up in the language of the Partner Institution or in the English language, it must also be prepared in the Slovak language for legal purposes and administrative review.

6. The Agreement must specify the legal system by which it is governed. If the Agreement is governed by law other than Slovak law, the study program guarantor must carefully assess the need for the Agreement to be reviewed by a lawyer with relevant expertise in the applicable legal regulations governing the Agreement.

7. The Agreement shall be signed by the statutory representatives and supervisors of both Partner Institutions, the Dean of the relevant faculty of STU, the Dean of the faculty of the foreign partner institution, if required by the foreign partner institution, and the doctoral student.

Article 3
Approval and Signature of the Agreement

1. The prepared draft agreement shall be sent electronically by the Vice-Dean responsible for doctoral studies at the relevant faculty of STU, or by a person authorised by him/her, to the **Department of Education and Students Care (DE&SC)** of the Rector's Office of STU, which shall verify the formal and linguistic requirements of the Agreement.

2. The draft agreement shall subsequently be forwarded electronically for legal review to the **Legal and Organisational Department (L&OD)** of the Rector's Office of STU. The L&OD shall assess the compliance of the Agreement with generally binding legal regulations and internal regulations of STU.

3. If the Agreement contains all necessary particulars and is prepared in accordance with Article 2 of this Directive, DE&SC shall prepare the file cover for the Agreement, ensure the printing of the required number of counterparts of the Agreement, and arrange for their submission for signature to all contracting parties on behalf of STU: the doctoral student, the supervisor, the Dean of the relevant faculty, and the Rector. Subsequently, the counterparts shall be sent to the foreign partner institution.

4. The Agreement shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the Central Register of Contracts maintained by the Government Office of the Slovak Republic.

Article 4
Funding of Doctoral Studies

1. A full-time doctoral student at STU shall be entitled to a scholarship during the standard duration of the doctoral studies provided in accordance with the Study Regulations of STU.

2. The doctoral student is entitled to use available international or internal schemes to support academic mobility and research at the foreign partner institution, in particular: the Erasmus+ Program, the National Scholarship Program, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) / Individual Fellowships, bilateral projects of Partner Institutions, scholarships of the foreign partner institution (if provided), the internal scientific grant system of STU, faculty grant schemes, and other sources.

3. Tuition fees at the foreign partner institution shall be governed by the internal regulations of the given partner institution, unless otherwise stipulated in the Agreement. Tuition fees at STU shall be governed by the Rector’s Directive regulating tuition fees and study-related fees at STU for the relevant academic year. A doctoral student enrolled in full-time study conducted in the Slovak language shall not be required to pay tuition during the standard duration of studies.

4. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Agreement, financial costs related to the doctoral thesis defense shall be borne by the supervisor, the doctoral student’s department, or the faculty, provided that an appropriate funding scheme has been established.

Article 5
Final Provisions

1. Any amendments or supplements to this Directive may be made only by means of numbered amendments signed by the Rector.

2. After issuing each amendment to this Directive, the Rector is entitled to issue a consolidated version of this Directive together with the amendment.

3. This Directive shall enter into force on the date of its issuance and shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

prof. Ing. Maximilián Strémy, PhD.[1]
Rector

[1] This document is electronically signed.

Amendment No. 1
to the Rector’s Directive No. 9/2025 - SR as of December 19, 2025
Rules for the Preparation, Implementation, and Funding of Doctoral Studies under Joint Supervision between the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and a Foreign Partner Institution

Sample Cotutelle Agreement on Joint Supervision of Doctoral Thesis

Amendment No. 1
Sample Cotutelle Agreement on Joint Supervision of Doctoral Thesis

Cotutelle Agreement

established between

1. Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (STU)

Registered seat: Vazovova 5, 812 43 Bratislava, Slovak Republic
Company Registration Number: 00397687
Represented by: prof. Ing. Maximilián Strémy, PhD., Rector

2. Foreign Partner Institution

Name: [Full name]
Registered seat: [Adress, city, state]
Represented by: [name, titles, position]

hereinafter collectively referred to as "Partner Institutions"

3. Doctoral student

Name and surname:
[Doctoral student's personal data – date of birth, permanent address]

The Agreement is concluded under the following legal regulations:

- Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on universities and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act of the SR"), Study Regulations of STU, Internal quality assurance system for doctoral studies at STU, other internal regulations related to doctoral study programs available on the official notice board of STU, STU Rector's Directive No. XX/2025 – SR .....
- Partner Institution's regulations [enumerate]

The Partner Institutions agree to co-operate in the joint supervision of the thesis of the doctoral student on the following terms and conditions:

STU

Article 1

Administrative Procedures

1. The doctoral student is required to meet the terms of admission for doctoral studies at the Partner Institutions.

2. The doctoral student is enrolled as a full-time student at STU [department/institute], in the field of study [name of field of study], in the study program [name of study program] and, at the same time, at the Partner Institution [name of field of study or study program] from the academic year [specify] with a standard length of study of 3 or 4 academic years [specify the standard length of full-time study].

3. The study is governed by an Individual Study Plan (hereinafter referred to as "ISP"), which is compiled by the doctoral student in cooperation with both supervisors and which forms a binding annex to the Agreement. Changes to the ISP are only possible with the written consent of all contracting parties.

4. The schedule of stays at STU and the Partner Institution is as follows [detailed plan for individual academic years or semesters].

5. The doctoral student is required to enroll for each academic year at both Partner Institutions.

6. Study records at STU are kept in the Academic Information System (AIS). The course, records, and monitoring of studies during the doctoral student's stay at STU are governed by the Study Regulations of STU. Study records at the Partner Institution are kept [as determined by the Partner Institution].

7. STU will provide the doctoral student with a scholarship during the standard duration of the doctoral studies in accordance with the applicable Slovak legal regulations [specify according to the current situation]. During their studies at a foreign partner university, the doctoral student may also be awarded scholarships or loans provided by the state, national, local, or regional authorities for the purpose of their studies at STU.

8. Unless otherwise agreed, the doctoral student does not pay tuition fees at the foreign partner institution. [If the foreign partner institution requires tuition and fees related to study, the amount or regulations that apply shall be stated] Fees for study at STU are governed by the currently valid Rector's Directive regulating tuition and fees related to study at STU and are as follows [specify the specific amount for each academic year according to the current situation].

9. It is the doctoral student responsibility to ensure that he/she is covered for sickness, maternity and work related accidents by the valid insurance during his/her studies at the relevant Partner Institution in the relevant country. Finally, he/she is also advised to take out an insurance covering travel between the two countries of the Partner Institutions.

Article 2

Course of Study

1. The title of the thesis prepared at both Partner Institutions is [specify]:
2. The doctoral student works under the responsibility of a thesis supervisor (and possibly of a co-supervisor) in each of the Partner Institutions. Both supervisors are responsible for the professional guidance of the doctoral student at the relevant training workplace and regularly inform each other about the status of the doctoral studies.
3. The supervisors for the thesis are: [name and surname, titles, or positions of both supervisors, department].
4. At the end of each academic year, an assessment of the training and research results of the doctoral student will be made at each Partner Institution, in accordance with its internal regulations. At STU, the supervisor submits an updated study plan of the doctoral student to the chair of the departmental committee with a statement whether or not he/she recommends the doctoral student's continuation in studies. In doing so, the supervisor assesses the status and level of fulfilment of the doctoral student's individual study plan, compliance with the study schedule and, if necessary, submits a proposal for modification of the ISP.
5. The doctoral student is required to meet the requirements for doctoral studies the Partner Institutions. The list of trainings that the doctoral student plans on attending has to be included in the ISP, which is updated each time the student enrolls for the academic year. The ISP may specify additional requirements for completing courses set by the Partner Institution, e.g., obtaining a minimum of 30 credits by completing specific training courses (doctoral school), completing mandatory classes on ethics and scientific integrity, etc.

Article 3

Thesis Defense and Funding

1. The language chosen for the writing of the thesis and for the defense is [specify]. A substantial summary (10 to 20 pages) and abstract of the thesis will be submitted in English, Slovak and xxx [if relevant].
2. The doctoral student must submit their thesis defense request in both Partner Institutions with respect to the deadlines and applicable provisions in each institution.
3. The thesis defense takes place before a jury. The selection of reviewers, the composition of the jury for the thesis defense, and the procedure for the thesis defense are proposed jointly on the basis of an agreement between the Partner Institutions and must comply with the rules of both Partner Institutions. [Details may be proposed directly here.]
4. The defense of the thesis is public and will take place at [specify]. The defense of the thesis may take place by videoconference in accordance with the rules in force in both Partner Institutions.
5. Travel and accommodation expenses for the members of the jury from the Partner Institution will be covered by the given Partner Institution. Other expenses will be covered by STU [or otherwise agreed].

Article 4

Awarding the Degree and Issuing the Diploma

1. After fulfilling all the conditions for the proper completion of doctoral studies, STU will award the graduate the academic degree “doctor” (“philosophiae doctor”, abbreviated as **“PhD.”**) / “artis doctor” (abbreviated as “**ArtD.**") pursuant to the Act of the SR.
2. STU shall issue the graduate with documents certifying the completion of studies in accordance with Section 68 of the Act of the SR. The Diploma Supplement shall include information on the joint supervision of the doctoral thesis, as well as the name and registered seat of the Partner Institution.
3. Upon successful completion of doctoral studies, the Partner Institution shall issue the graduate with a diploma awarding the academic degree [insert the name and abbreviation, if applicable] in accordance with the national regulations of the country of the Partner Institution.
4. The graduate shall be entitled to use the academic degrees awarded by both Partner Institutions.

Article 5

Intellectual Property and Publication

1. The protection of the intellectual property of the doctoral thesis and its publication will be ensured following the procedures specific to each Partner Institution and following the legal regulations of the respective country.
2. The national laws of Slovakia and the country of the Partner Institution, in conjunction with any relevant contractual arrangements, will determine whether and to what extent STU and the other Partner Institution have separate or joint rights to any intellectual property created by the doctoral student during the course of the joint supervision of the doctoral thesis.
3. Both Partner Institutions shall be co-owners of the results and related intellectual property rights, according to their respective intellectual and financial contributions to the said results [or adjust as agreed].
4. The Partner Institutions agree to consider as confidential, and not to disclose to third parties, under any form whatsoever, any information, including but not limited to documents, systems, software, know-how, methods or knowledge obtained from the other Partner Institution or to which they might have had access to while performing the tasks relating to this Agreement, directly or indirectly, and to use the confidential information exclusively for the purpose of work for the doctoral thesis and its defense.

Article 6

Final Provisions

1. This Agreement is concluded for the duration of the doctoral student's doctoral studies. Its validity and effectiveness shall expire on the date of the regular or other completion of doctoral studies.

2. The agreement may only be amended by written amendment signed by all contracting parties.
3. The Agreement may be terminated by agreement of all contracting parties.
4. In the event of a material breach of the obligations under this Agreement by any of the contracting parties, any contracting party shall have the right to withdraw from the Agreement. Withdrawal shall take effect on the date on which the notice of withdrawal from the Agreement is delivered to the other contracting party.
5. The Agreement is governed by the legal system of [specify].
6. This Agreement is executed in five (5) counterparts in the Slovak language and in the English language. Each contracting party and both supervisors shall receive one counterpart of the Agreement.
7. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing by all contracting parties and shall take effect on the day following its publication in the Central Register of Contracts maintained by the Government Office of the Slovak Republic.

_____	_____
Signature of the Rector of STU	Signature of the Rector of the foreign partner institution
_____	_____
Signature of the STU Faculty Dean	Signature of the Dean of the foreign partner institution or another responsible person, e.g., the Director of the Doctoral School (optional)
_____	_____
Signature of the STU Supervisor	Signature of the Supervisor of the foreign partner institution

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Signature of the doctoral student