

AGREEMENT FOR A JOINT RESEARCH DOCTORAL THESIS

The "Sapienza" University of Rome, whose headquarters are at Piazzale Aldo Moro 5, Rome, Italy, represented for the purposes hereof by the Rector Prof. Eugenio Gaudio, further to the powers vested in him

AND

the University of Groningen (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, the Netherlands), Broerstraat 5, 9712 CP Groningen, represented for the purposes hereof by Prof. Sibrand Poppema, further to the powers vested in him

For the Italian university:

- having regard to the resolution of the University Senate of 2 October 2003;
- having regard to Article 19 of Law no. 240/2010 on research doctorates;
- having regard to Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013 on rules governing research doctorates;
- having regard to the University Regulations on research doctorates;

For the foreign university:

- the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*);
- the PhD Regulations of the University of Groningen (*Promotiereglement*);

united in their desire to contribute to establishing and/or developing scientific co-operation between Italian and foreign teams of researchers through the mobility of doctoral candidates

agree as follows

First Part - Administrative Matters

Art. 1 - The "Sapienza" University of Rome and the University of Groningen (hereinafter referred to as the "Institutions") agree, in accordance with the applicable laws, rules and regulations in force in each of their respective countries and Institutions, to jointly organise a doctoral thesis for the benefit of the following doctoral candidate:

name and surname: Maria Bove

enrolled in the research doctorate course in: Toxicology

title of the thesis: Neurobiological determinants of depressive symptoms in rodent species

The principles governing the joint doctoral thesis as well as the relevant administrative procedures and education related matters are established in this agreement.

Art. 2 - The period for researching and writing the thesis shall be three years, commencing from 1 November 2014. Where necessary such term can be prolonged in accordance with the rules in force at both of the Institutions.

Art. 3 - The thesis shall be researched and written in alternating periods (more or less of equal

length) at both Institutions. The duration of such periods shall be fixed by agreement between the two thesis supervisors.

Art. 4 - Ms. Maria Bove shall be registered with both Institutions. The candidate shall pay the normal registration fees to the "Sapienza" University of Rome and be exempted from such fees at University of Groningen.

Art. 5 - For the entire period required to research and write the thesis, Ms. Maria Bove shall be entitled to the benefits of the Italian health service in accordance with the relevant Community regulations in this regard (Form EI28). The candidate may independently take out personal insurance for any risks over and above those covered by the national health service.

The doctoral candidate must prove sufficient health insurance coverage for the full period of her stay in the Netherlands as well as a personal liability insurance.

Second Part - Educational Matters

Art. 1 - The candidate shall research and write the thesis under the joint supervision of:

- Prof. Dr. Vincenzo Cuomo (faculty member at the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology "V. Erspamer"), thesis supervisor at the "Sapienza" University of Rome;
- Prof. Dr. Martien Kas (faculty member at GELIFES institute, Faculty of Science and Engineering), thesis supervisor at University of Groningen

each of whom undertake to fully perform their duties as tutors of the candidate and to evaluate – by means of separate and individual written reports - the doctoral thesis.

The supervisors will consult regularly on the research progress of the doctoral candidate. The supervision is equally divided between both institutions. Each institute will invest 50% of the allotted time for supervision. The daily supervision and scientific mentoring resides with the supervisor located where the research work is being undertaken at that particular moment.

Art. 2 - The thesis shall be written in English; A summary of the thesis shall be written in Italian and Dutch.

Art. 3 - The positive assessment of both thesis supervisors shall be a necessary prerequisite for admission to the final examination.

1. After the positive assessment of the thesis supervisors, the thesis can be submitted to the Assessment Committee.
2. The Assessment Committee consists of four persons. Only full professors employed by a university who have not co-authored with the doctoral candidate may be members of the Assessment Committee.
3. The Assessment Committee consists at least of one professor from the University of Groningen and one professor from the "Sapienza" University of Rome.
4. The Assessment Committee shall be composed by mutual consent between the partner institutions, in accordance with the regulations in force at the partner institutions.

Art. 4

1. After the positive assessment of the Assessment Committee, the thesis can be submitted to the PhD Examining Committee.
2. The Examining Committee shall consist of at least five persons;
 - full professors, both from the University of Groningen and from “Sapienza” University of Rome;
 - a maximum of 2 University Readers/Associate Professors or Lecturers/Assistant Professors with PhDs;
 - the members of the Assessment Committee;
 - the chair.The supervisors are not members of the PhD Examining Committee.
3. The Examining Committee shall be composed by mutual consent between the partner institutions, in accordance with the regulations in force at the partner institutions.

Art. 5

1. The Examining Committee allows the doctoral candidate to publically defend her thesis after a positive assessment by the Assessment Committee.
2. The thesis will be defended, in English, during a public ceremony at the University of Groningen.

Art. 6 - The Cost Centre that the research doctorate in Toxicology pertains to shall bear any travel expenses incurred by the thesis supervisor and members of the examination commission unless otherwise agreed with the Partner Institution.

Art. 7 - Each of the two Institutions undertakes to award a doctoral degree for the same thesis following a favourable report issued by the examination commission.

The University of Groningen will award the degree Doctor (*translated into English as: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)*).

The "Sapienza" University of Rome will award a research doctoral degree in Toxicology.

Each University will issue its own degree certificate which will mention the joint nature of the supervision by the partner institutions, leading to the award of a double doctorate.

Third Part - Conclusion

Art. 1 - Doctoral candidates shall observe the rules and customs of the host Institution.

Art. 2 - The contracting Institutions, through the offices of their respective thesis supervisors, undertake to notify each other of all the information and documentation useful for the purposes of organising the joint thesis that is the subject matter of this present agreement.

Art. 3 - The presentation, deposit and reproduction of the thesis shall be done in each and every country in accordance with the applicable regulations in force. The protection of the subject matter of the thesis and likewise the publication, exploitation and protection of the results obtained by the candidate's research in the contracting Institutions shall be subject to the applicable law in force and guaranteed in compliance with the specific procedures in this regard of each of the countries involved in the joint thesis.

If requested, the provisions in connection with intellectual property rights may be agreed in specific protocols or documents. Foreground intellectual property rights shall be the property of the institutions.

Art. 4 - This agreement shall be effective as and from the date of its execution by the authorised representative of each contracting Institution and shall be valid until the end of the academic year during which the thesis or study will be orally defended.

In the event that the candidate does not register in one or other of the contracting Institutions, renounces in writing or is not authorised to continue researching and writing the thesis by virtue of a decision made by one of the two thesis supervisors, the contracting Institutions shall jointly and without delay terminate this agreement.

Art. 5 - This agreement is drawn up in four originals in English, which have binding legal force.

Rome, _____

Groningen, _____

For "Sapienza" University of Rome

For University of Groningen

THE RECTOR

Prof. dr. S. Poppema

THE PRESIDENT

The Research Doctorate Co-ordinator

Director Graduate School of Science and Engineering

The Thesis Supervisor

The Thesis Supervisor
