



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA  
DE CATALUNYA  
BARCELONATECH



Shahrood  
University of  
Technology

## **COTUTELLE AGREEMENT FOR THE DOCTORAL THESIS OF MAHDI SHEIKH BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA AND THE SHAHROOD UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

Date: 01/02/2021

### **BY AND BETWEEN**

Of the one part, Prof. Francesc Torres Torres, Rector of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), appointed by Royal Decree 1025/2017 (published on December 12th in DOGC no. 7514 and in BOE no. 301), whose address in Barcelona is C/Jordi Girona 31, with Tax Identification Number Q-0818003F, and who acts on behalf of the above institution by virtue of the provisions in article 20 of the Organic Law of Universities 6/2001, of 21 December; and articles 67, 169 of the Statutes of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, passed by Agreement GOV/43/2012, May 29th of the Government of Catalonia (DOGC no. 6140 of 1 June 2012).

And of the other part, Prof. Mohammad Mahdi Fateh, rector of the Shahrood University of Technology (hereinafter the (SUT)), post to which he was appointed by virtue of Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT), whose address in Shahrood is Daneshgah Blvd.

On behalf of the aforementioned institutions, the parties hereby mutually acknowledge each other's legal capacity to enter into this agreement.

### **RECITALS**

WHEREAS, both universities have an interest in formalising the cotutelle of the doctoral thesis of doctoral candidate Mahdi Sheikh and aim to recognise the candidate's attainment of the doctoral degree level.

Therefore, the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya and the Shahrood University of Technology agree to enter into this agreement, which will be governed by the following



## CLAUSES

### ONE. Compliance with regulations

This agreement is subject to the prevailing regulations in each country proved by Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) in one hand and the Government of Spain and Catalonia on the other hand and those of each university as regards doctoral studies. Both the signatory universities and the doctoral candidate shall act in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

During his or her visit, the doctoral candidate must comply with the applicable rules of the institution on health and safety, access control, etc. and with its timetable.

The thesis supervisor at each institution must inform the doctoral candidate of any hazards he or she may be exposed to and the manner in which he or she must prevent them or protect him or herself from them. It must also inform the candidate of the measures that must be taken in an emergency.

The doctoral candidate must be aware of and comply with the instructions given.

This agreement would be valid upon approval of Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) and the corresponding authority of UPC.

### TWO. Mobility and start date

The cotutelle begins on 14/09/2018 and implies alternating periods of study leading to the writing of the doctoral thesis.

The duration of these periods must be established by mutual agreement between the two thesis supervisors in view of the doctoral candidate's progress. In any event, the duration of the doctoral candidate's visit to each university must be no less than six months, which need not be consecutive. This will allow the doctoral candidate to apply for the International Doctorate mention.

Academic year	Start and end dates	Institution visited	Activity to be carried out
2018-2019	14/09/2018-15/09/2019	UPC	Conceptualization, Methodology
2019-2020	16/09/2019-15/09/2020	UPC	Investigation, Resources, Data Curation



2020-2021	16/09/2020- 15/09/2021	SUT	Software, Formal analysis, Writing - Original Draft, Visualization
2021-2022	16/09/2021- 15/09/2022	SUT	Writing final version

Possible changes in the duration of these periods must be established by mutual agreement of the thesis supervisors in view of the doctoral candidate's progress, as long as the minimum period set by each institution in this agreement is fulfilled.

### THREE. Admission

At the UPC, the doctoral candidate must be admitted to the doctoral programme Chemical Process Engineering, organised by the Chemical Engineering Department at the UPC, in accordance with the prevailing regulations and the academic calendar.

At the SUT, the doctoral candidate must be admitted to the equivalent doctoral programme Separation Processes, organised by Faculty of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the SUT, in accordance with the prevailing regulations.

### FOUR. Enrolment

The doctoral candidate must enrol every year and pay the UPC the administrative and academic fees for supervision, tutorials and continuous assessment of the doctoral thesis, as well as the thesis submission (when the thesis is finished, before the defence), and the fee for issuing the degree certificate.

Academic year	Item	Payment to the UPC (yes/no)	Payment to SUT (yes/no)
2018-2019	Annual tutorial enrolment – first year	Yes	No
2018-2019	Research plan (first year only)	Free	No
2019-2020	Annual tutorial enrolment – second year	Yes	No
2020-2021	Annual tutorial enrolment – third year	Yes	No
2021-2022	Annual tutorial enrolment – fourth year	Yes	No
2021-2022	Thesis submission	Yes	No
2021-2022	Application for doctoral degree certificate	Yes	No

In the event of authorizing extensions, the doctoral student must pay the UPC the corresponding administrative and academic prices and fees.



## **FIVE. Thesis supervision**

The doctoral thesis is an original research piece on a subject related to the scientific, technical or artistic field of the doctoral programme taken by the doctoral candidate.

The thesis supervisor at the SUT is **Dr. Mashallah Rezakazemi**.

The thesis supervisor at the UPC is **Prof. José Luis Cortina** and **Dr. César Alberto Valderrama**.

If the thesis supervisor has to be changed, the standard procedure at the corresponding university will be followed. A change in supervisor must be communicated to the other university.

The supervision of the doctoral thesis that is the object of this agreement must be exercised in a coordinated manner under the control and responsibility of the two thesis supervisors.

## **SIX. Research plan**

The doctoral candidate must submit or must have submitted the research plan at the UPC before the deadline established in the UPC's Academic Regulations for Doctoral Studies.

## **SEVEN. Thesis submission and defence**

The doctoral thesis must be registered at both universities, once the universities have approved it and in accordance with the corresponding regulations.

The doctoral thesis must be submitted before the deadline and following the procedure established in the respective prevailing regulations.

The doctoral thesis will be defended once, at the UPC.

The examination committee for the thesis defence must be appointed by mutual agreement of the two universities. The composition of the examination committee must comply with the current legislation of the countries and universities participating in this agreement. In any event, the majority of the members of the examination committee must be external to the universities participating in the co-tutoring and all of its members must have doctoral degrees.

The signatory universities commit to recognising the validity of the doctoral thesis defended within the framework of the agreement.

**Comment:** When the thesis supervisor at the other university is a member of the examination committee (in keeping with that university's regulations), this fact must be stated in this section. The thesis supervisor at the UPC may not be a member.





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#### **EIGHT. Language of the defence**

Within the framework of this agreement, the thesis may be defended in Catalan, Spanish or English. If the defence takes place in English, an abstract must be attached in Spanish or Catalan, in English and in the official language of the other university if it is a language other than English.

The thesis may be written and/or defended in another language if the doctoral candidate requests it on reasonable grounds and both institutions authorise it in accordance with their regulations.

#### **NINE. Expenses**

Examination committee members' travel and living expenses during their visit will be covered by the university at which the thesis is defended.

#### **TEN. Publication, use and protection of the results**

The SUT and the UPC guarantee that the thesis will be published, in accordance with the specific procedures in each country.

At the UPC, once the thesis has been defended and passed, the full text will be added to the TDX institutional repository. The University must apply for the legal deposit of the thesis to guarantee its future conservation and preservation.

#### **ELEVEN. Doctoral degree certificate**

Once the examination committee has passed the thesis, the doctoral candidate can apply for the doctoral degree certificate from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya and the doctoral degree certificate from the Shahrood University of Technology.

Each university undertakes to issue the doctoral degree certificate, in accordance with the country's prevailing regulations.

#### **TWELVE. Maximum periods for defending the thesis**

Depending on whether the doctoral student is a full-time or part-time student, the period from admission to the doctoral programme to the registration of the thesis deposit shall be of a maximum of three years. In the case of extensions authorised by the academic committee for



the doctoral programme at the UPC, this period may be extended up to a maximum of two years.

### **THIRTEEN. Term of the agreement**

The term of this agreement runs from 14/09/2018 until the public defence of the thesis, in accordance with prevailing legislation in both countries and whether the doctoral candidate is a full- or part-time student.

### **FOURTEEN. Transparency**

In accordance with prevailing legislation on transparency, access to public information and good governance, the UPC shall, in relation to this agreement, make public information on the signatories of the agreement, its object, its term, the obligations of the parties, including their financial obligations, and any amendments thereof.

### **FIFTEEN. Insurance**

Any civil liability for damages to third parties stemming from work on the thesis will be covered by the UPC's civil liability policy, unless the stay is in the United States, Mexico or Canada.

With regard to risks stemming from illnesses or accidents, if the student is aged under 28 he or she is obliged to have student insurance, which will only give coverage in EU countries and Switzerland. In all other cases, that is, if the student is aged over 28 or is in another country than the above, he or she is obliged to take out travel insurance.

The costs of travel, transport, accommodation and food will be paid for by the doctoral candidate in their entirety.

### **SIXTEEN. Persons in charge of following up the agreement**

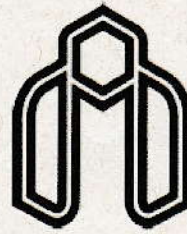
Each of the institutions must appoint a person who will be in charge of following up the application of the agreement.

For the UPC, this person will be Prof. Ignasi Casas Pons, Chemical Process Engineering doctoral program Coordinator.

For the SUT, this person will be Dr. Mashallah Rezakazemi.

These persons will have the following functions, without prejudice to any other functions assigned to them:





- a) To solve any problems that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of the agreement.
- b) To follow up the implementation of the agreement.
- c) In the event of the agreement's termination, to propose its continuation or the manner and deadline for completing the activities already under way.

#### **SEVENTEEN. Termination of the agreement**

This individual agreement will cease to be effective if the doctoral candidate fails to fulfil any of the conditions stipulated, when both co-supervisors deem that the preparatory work for the thesis is not being carried out within the time frame and in the manner foreseen, or when, due to reasons outside the control of the receiving institution, the doctoral candidate does not integrate into the research team working on the line associated with the topic of the thesis. The decision to terminate the agreement must be communicated three months in advance.

The following may be grounds for terminating this agreement:

- a) The term of the agreement ending without any extensions thereof having been agreed.
- b) The parties' mutual agreement in writing.
- c) A written statement by any of the parties of their will to terminate the agreement six months in advance.
- d) A judicial decision that declares the agreement null and void.
- e) The causes outlined in the agreement and those set out in current legislation.

In any event, if any of the grounds for terminating the agreement arise and activities are still under way, the parties, on the proposal of the persons in charge of following up the agreement, may agree to continue and complete any of the activities under way and set a deadline for its completion that may not be extended, after which any fees that may apply must be settled.

#### **EIGHTEEN. Conflict resolution**

The parties express their commitment to fulfilling their respective obligations in good faith and bringing to fruition all of the negotiations that are needed to honour this agreement in a satisfactory manner.

Any controversy stemming from the interpretation, fulfilment or execution of the terms of this agreement must be resolved by mutual agreement between the parties.





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In witness whereof, the two parties sign the copies of this agreement at the place and on the date indicated in its heading.

**UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA  
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**Vice-rector for Academic Policy**

(on behalf of the rector, in accordance with  
Resolution no.122, of January 2020, published in  
the Official Gazette of the  
Catalan Government no. 8082,  
11th March 2020)

Prof. Maria del Carmen Pretel Sánchez

**SHAHROOD UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY**

**President of Shahrood University  
of Technology**

Prof. Mohammad Mahdi Fateh