

How to deal with University-Industry Relations and Doctorate Candidates

An example: Université libre de Bruxelles



AGENDA

Doctorate and Industrial Relations at ULB

- University-company projects involving doctorate fellows
- Industrial collaboration funding programmes for doctoral researchers

Intellectual property at ULB: Policy – What of the Doctorate Fellows?

- General Principles
- What of the doctorate fellows?
- Doctorate with companies: Issues to overcome

Doctorate and Industrial Relations at ULB





University-company projects involving doctorate fellows

- > Regularly, doctorate candidates spend some time within companies to carry out experiments on otherwise unavailable equipment or facilities...
- > ...or to find specific advices and insights relating to skills and knowledge unavailable on the academic level
- > Doctorate candidates may participate in collaborative research projects with industry
- > Industry representatives may be invited as experts or jury members for the evaluation of Ph.D. thesis
- > Specific funding programs from regional and European authorities
- > ULB-TTO (Technology Transfer Office) is regularly called upon to assist doctorate candidates and supervisors to assist them in dealing with industrial collaboration issues (especially IPR regime)



Industrial collaboration funding programmes for doctoral researchers

Brussels-Capital Region

« DOCTIRIS »

- > The doctorate fellow is hired by the university
- > In collaboration with an industrial partner
- > At least 50% of the project duration at the industrial partner
- > An experienced supervisor of the industrial partner must accompany the researcher
- > Regional funding covers the researcher's remuneration and his operating costs
- > Duration: 2 years, renewable up to 2 more years



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Industrial collaboration funding programmes for doctoral researchers

« Doctorat en Entreprise »

- > The doctorate fellow is hired by the company
- > Under the leadership of a scientific senior executive from the company
- > The research is to be carried out both within the company and within the academic partner (at least 1/3 time each)
- > An academic supervisor from the university must accompany the researcher
- > Regional funding partially covers the project costs (% depending upon the company size)
- > Project is 2 years, renewable 2 years through mid-term review
- > The company retains the results

Wallonia



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Industrial collaboration funding programmes for doctoral researchers

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

- > Innovative Training Networks: European Industrial Doctorates
- > A consortium of at least 2 different beneficiaries in 2 different EU Member States or Associated Countries
- > At least 1 beneficiary must come from the non-academic sector (primarily a company)
- > The doctorate fellow is hired by one of the partners
- > The doctorate fellow is jointly supervised by at least two supervisors, one from each sector (academic and non-academic)
- > At least 50% of the project duration at the industrial partner
- > Funding covers the staff costs for up to 5-15 researchers and their operating costs
- > Funding for 4 years



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Intellectual property at ULB: Policy – What of the Doctorate Fellows?





General Principles

Internal Regulation: applies to anyone carrying out research inside ULB, irrespective of their role

- > ULB is the owner of all the results of the research activities conducted within its units
- > ULB files and manages patent applications and granted patents, and covers the expenses
- > ULB (through its TTO) manages every step of the technology transfer processes, in the best interest of both university and inventors
- > Researchers are strongly involved throughout the process from protection up to valorization
- > Financial returns equally shared between university, lab(s) and inventors (« three thirds » rule)





What of the doctorate fellows?

TRAINING

- > Doctoral school: courses and seminars to raise awareness about intellectual property and technology transfer by ULB-TTO
- > Other continuing education courses relating to intellectual property and technology transfer, accessible to doctorate fellows

REGULATION

- > « Internal Regulation: applies to anyone carrying out research inside ULB, irrespective of their role »...
- > ...but doctoral scholars (and students) are not employees!
- > Theoretically not required to sign any document regarding ownership of their results
- > They are required to sign an assignment agreement prior to starting their research project

Doctorate with companies: issues to overcome

SETTLEMENTS OF AGREEMENT

- > Access to preexisting know-how and results of the university for the company
- > Ownership of the results (sole – joint)
- > Publications (verification period,...)
- > Thesis defense: possible confidentiality issues (closed sessions, NDA for the jury)
- > Exploitation of the results:
 - Exclusive license in the activity field of the company
 - University free to valorize outside said field
 - University free to use the results for research and teaching

E'tiboringiz uchun Raxmat!

Thank you for your attention!

Grazie per l'attenzione!

Hvala na pozornosti!

Bedankt voor uw aandacht!

Danke für ihre Aufmerksamkeit!

Köszönöm a figyelmet!

Merci pour votre attention!

