



# UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BERGAMO

## SERVIZI AMMINISTRATIVI GENERALI

### GESTIONE PROCEDURE CONCORSUALI E SELEZIONI



## ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT DOCTORATE



## CULTURAL STUDIES IN LITERARY INTERZONES

### DOCTORAL CANDIDATE AGREEMENT

Doctoral students will sign a Doctoral Candidate Agreement with the *Interzones* Consortium (available in January 2010), which will specify the regulations as concerns their work assignments and obligations. The Doctoral Candidate Agreement will comprise the following regulations:

#### **1. The Programme's Research Objectives**

*Interzones* is a programme selected and funded by the EU for its innovative and challenging approach to the Humanities: it is designed to nurture and promote PhD/doctoral dissertations in a dynamic, multi-centre and cosmopolitan academic environment. We seek to prepare gifted doctoral students to become the "global academics" which top universities seek out in the fields of European comparative literatures and cultural studies, or highly-valued consultants in private business sectors interested in global cultural phenomena. For this reason, our PhD/doctoral candidates will be required to pursue their studies in several research/graduate centres or doctoral schools situated in four different countries.

The Doctorate's scientific agenda focuses on thinking in a non-identitarian way about the complexities, overlaps, divisions but also similarities which structure cultural, literary and artistic environments across nations, social classes, genders, ideological commitments, or historical periods. Social and cultural entities such as "Europe," for example, currently tend to be conceptualized only in terms of their limits and contours. As a consequence, the tools (such as identity, otherness, difference, colonization, entropy, etc.) with which artistic and literary productions are analyzed have tended to reproduce, or even to produce, a pre-existing idea of what it might mean to have (or not have) a nation, an ethnicity, a personality, a culture. We want to move beyond such often automatized identifications. Therefore we think of these entities – modes of being as areas of interaction – as zones: mental conditions, spaces, polysystemic



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meeting-places (and sometimes battlegrounds), sites not only of contestation or compliance but of invention and creativity. We take our inspiration from places like Kalin's, a tavern where a yellow line is painted on the floor to delineate the frontier between Slovenia and Croatia, itself part of a bigger venue, full of life, both a cultural space and an interzone. We understand cultural studies as a vital and elegant means not only of thinking of communication beyond the automatism of common conceptualisations, but also as a means to ask how communication within and beyond various entities such as personality, ethnicity, and nation can be renewed and reinvented. It is under these premises that we want to ask: how do the inhabitants of interzonal spaces and conditions exist?

## 2. Didactic Structure and Students' Life

We explicitly invite innovative, project proposals which are prepared to strike out into new territories. Within the programme, we can provide expert supervision and academic accompaniment in a wide variety of fields and their interconnections: European literatures in most modern languages, and, also in their postcolonial extensions, empirical cultural studies, media studies, philosophy and art history. Concerning the didactic progression of their doctoral research activities, candidates are invited to carefully read Paragraph 3 to 5 (below).

The languages of tuition are French and English. Besides these two, a good knowledge of a third modern European language (among the following: Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, German, Russian, Polish, or Catalan) is required from the candidates in order to make them truly competitive in the field of comparative literature and visual culture.

A wide variety of facilities (such as language centres to learn or improve a fourth or fifth foreign language, sports and cultural activities, pastoral care to facilitate accommodation and visa procedures...) are offered everywhere in the Consortium at no extra cost.

Candidates are invited to carefully read the **From Selection to Registration** document and to join the worldwide competition (starting in November 2009 on [www.mundusphd-interzones.eu](http://www.mundusphd-interzones.eu)) for an Erasmus Mundus Fellowship which amounts to a maximum annual salary of 24,000 Euros (net before tax), as all fellowships holders will benefit from an employment contract with the *Interzones* Consortium.

## 3. Mobility Options

The doctoral mobility plan requires that all students spend Semester 1 of their programme at the University of Bergamo, after which they must opt for a specific mobility respecting the rules stated below.

The mobility programme underwritten in the application must reflect the languages known and the pertinence of the research to be conducted in each university as part of the candidate's project. This programme must be approved by the Academic Council; alternatively students may be asked during enrolment to submit a programme more suited to their academic profile. This can be adjusted and approved by the Academic Council during Semester 1 (in exceptional cases).



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Table 1. Mobility options for doctoral students

|            |   |            |                        |
|------------|---|------------|------------------------|
| Semester 1 | Bergamo<br>(all students)   |            |                        |
| Semester 2 | <u><b>Category A STUDENTS:</b></u><br>Tübingen / Perpignan<br><u><b>Category B STUDENTS:</b></u><br>Tübingen / Perpignan /<br>New Delhi / Rio                     | Semester 3 | Continuation of Sem. 2 |
| Semester 4 | Any Associate Member or<br>Partner (except the two degree-<br>awarding institutions)*   |            |                        |
| Semester 5 | <u><b>Category A STUDENTS:</b></u><br>Tübingen / Bergamo / Perpignan<br><u><b>Category B STUDENTS:</b></u><br>Tübingen / Perpignan /<br>New Delhi / Rio / Bergamo | Semester 6 | Continuation of Sem. 5 |

\* Each doctoral student must spend at least two thirds of his/her mobility in Europe. The university chosen for Semester 4 therefore depends on the choice of the two degree-awarding Partner universities:

a) If two European universities are chosen, the student can opt for any other Partner or Associate Member university (12 options). If the student has spent more than 12 months in Europe during the 5 years prior to his/her application, s/he must choose a university outside Europe, which limits the choice to 7 options: Brown, St. Petersburg, Sydney, Rio, Mexico, Buenos Aires or New Delhi.

b) If New Delhi or Rio are chosen as one of the two degree-awarding Partner universities, the student must choose between another European university (excluding the one awarding the qualification) and one of the following: Aix, Barcelona, Paris 3, Paris 10, Krakow or Zurich.

Non-European students will thus spend at least 5 (or a maximum of 6) semesters in European institutions, whereas European students will spend at least 1 semester (or a maximum of 2 semesters) outside Europe.

Nota Bene:

- Doctoral students who choose the University of Bergamo as one of the two degree-awarding Partner universities must spend Semesters 5 and 6 in Bergamo.
- European doctoral students cannot choose Bergamo, Tubingen or Perpignan as one of the two degree-awarding universities if their last degree was received respectively from an Italian, German



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or French university. They can however choose universities in such locations for Semester 4 if New Delhi or Rio is one of the two degree-awarding universities.

- New Delhi and Rio cannot be both chosen as the two degree-awarding universities for the same doctoral student.
- Non-European doctoral students cannot choose New Delhi or Rio as one of the two degree-awarding universities.

#### 4. Doctoral Students' Work Assignments and Research Activities

The obligations of all doctoral students, whether or not they hold a fellowship, are set by the Academic Council and confirmed in the Doctoral Candidate Agreement (available in January 2010).

The Academic Council sets the standards that doctoral students must attain and approves for each student an academic plan and a mobility programme aimed at developing the skills needed for highly-qualified research work. For this purpose, the Academic Council appoints two supervisors, whose duty is to oversee the student's progress and guide his/her research and the drafting of a final thesis, in the two degree-awarding Universities chosen by the student after approval by the Academic Council.

Students are not allowed to enrol simultaneously in another doctorate or Postgraduate school.

Fellowships are awarded exclusively for full-time enrolment in the doctorate, therefore fellowship holders must not be engaged in any form of external employment, all the more so as they benefit from an employment contract with *Interzones*.

Doctoral students must regularly attend the activities included in the doctorate, as set by the Academic Council, and comply with the mobility plan submitted with their application and subsequently approved by the Academic Council.

The academic plan of doctoral students comprises the following activities:

a) Semester 1 must be spent by all students at the University of Bergamo to attend methodological seminars on "Cultural Migrations".

b) Semesters 2 and 3 must be spent at the first of the two degree-awarding Partner universities. Here the student will choose a corpus and topic for research, under the guidance of a first Supervisor. S/he will also begin the secondary activities listed in the portfolio (see Table 2), resulting in a total of 60 ECTS credits.

c) Semester 4 must be spent at another university, generally located on a different continent, in line with the guidelines and limitations specified in Paragraph 3 above. Here the student will draw on his/her knowledge of the literature to consult references, relying on locally available databanks and libraries and enjoy pastoral care and regular exchanges with local professors whose own research activities are relevant to the student's thesis. The choice of university must be consistent with both the student's linguistic skills AND research project and is subject to the Academic



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Council's approval.

d) Semesters 5 and 6 must be spent by each student at the second degree-awarding university. This period will be used to write the doctoral thesis. Students must also improve their written/oral communication skills by carrying out activities listed in the portfolio (see Table 2).

The whole programme therefore covers 6 consecutive semesters, for a total of 180 ECTS credits, including 120 credits for the thesis and 60 for secondary portfolio activities carried out during the mobility period.

Table 2. Portfolio of secondary activities qualifying for 60 ECTS credits

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Producing an article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal                          | 20 ECTS |
| Organising a conference, round table or symposium  | 20 ECTS |
| Proof-reading and/or editing an article in a journal                                     | 20 ECTS |
| Preparing and conducting an interview and writing it up as an article                    | 20 ECTS |
| In-depth review of a critical essay  | 10 ECTS |
| Teaching experience at higher-education level  | 20 ECTS |
| Webmastering activities (a website or online journal linked to <i>Interzones</i> issues) | 20 ECTS |
| Participation in a Doctoral Seminar with pre-defined assignments                         | 10 ECTS |
| Postgraduate training programme  | 10 ECTS |

Should the results or achievements be unsatisfactory, the Academic Council (after consulting the Supervisor) will propose a motivated ruling of exclusion from the programme. The monthly allowance and travel expense reimbursements of the student will then be stopped.

The reasons for exclusion from the doctorate supporting a motivated ruling by the Academic Council are as follows:

- Unsatisfactory results (number of ECTS credits not attained)
- Involvement in other forms of employment;
- Simultaneous enrolment in other academic or tertiary education courses;
- Unexplained, prolonged absence;
- Unjustified failure to comply with the mobility programme.



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### **5. Supervision Mechanisms**

Each student will be assigned a minimum of two main supervisors upon which s/he will depend for academic guidance and to whom they may turn for pastoral care. Moreover, four to five additional academics in the various research centres of the Consortium will act as tutors and peer colleagues to follow and guide them in their activities.

At Consortium level a Supervisors' Co-ordinator will be appointed by the Academic Council to guarantee that supervision mechanisms are in place across the consortium and that pastoral care is provided at every level. Moreover, a Student Logbook will record what has been achieved at each stage of the student's mobility. S/he will be in a position to ask for audit or assistance from the Academic Council's external examiner. New local co-ordinators, tutors and supervisors may well ask for such logbooks from the students upon arrival in their research centre.

The new technologies made available by the University of Bergamo will connect all supervisors in a network which will facilitate the consultation, exchange and analysis of information amongst students, professors and the Academic Council.

### **6. The Degree-Awarding Process**

The course terminates with the awarding of a Doctorate in the Humanities. This qualification is issued in co-tutelle formula by the two Partner universities chosen by the student. It is attained by gaining 60 ECTS credits in the portfolio of secondary activities and by passing a final examination centred on a Doctoral Thesis, worth 120 ECTS credits.

The qualification will be issued with a Diploma Supplement delivered by the University of Bergamo on behalf of all *Interzones* Partners. The Diploma Supplement will record all the options chosen by the student during the 6 semesters of his/her programme, his/her academic achievements and the description of the course contents and evaluation, in accordance with the guidelines set by the Treaty of Lisbon.

The final examination consists in an interview with the doctoral student centred on his/her thesis, and will be conducted in several languages by members of the jury. The thesis can be written in any of the languages of the Consortium, subject to authorisation by the Academic Council. Students cannot fail to attend the final examination.

Bergamo, 2/11/2009

Decree Reg. No. 22976/IV/009

THE INTERZONES LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE  
RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGAMO

(Prof. Stefano Paleari)