

**INDIVIDUAL AGREEMENT FOR AWARDING A DOUBLE**

**DOCTORAL DEGREE**

**BETWEEN**

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, located in Via Zamboni, 33 - Bologna, Italy, represented by its current Rector Prof. Francesco Ubertini, hereinafter "Unibo"

**AND**

the Babol Noshirvani University of Technology, located in Babol, Iran, represented by its current Rector Prof. Javad Vaseghi Amiri, hereinafter "BNUT"

together hereinafter referred to as the "Universities"

**CONSIDERING THAT**

- Unibo provides the PhD Programme in Chemistry;
- BNUT provides the PhD Programme in Biochemical Engineering;
- the Universities signed a framework agreement for awarding double doctoral degrees;
- the PhD candidate has already enrolled at Babol Noshirvani University of Technology (hereinafter the "Home University");
- the PhD candidate has expressed his will to enroll at Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna (hereinafter the "Host University");
- the Academic Board of the Host University has expressed a positive evaluation on the eligibility of the PhD candidate;
- Prof. Mostafa Rahimnejad and Prof. Francesca Soavi have accepted to undertake the role and the functions of Supervisors;



IT IS AGREED AND STIPULATED AS FOLLOWS

**Article 1**

The PhD candidate involved in this agreement is Mr. Mehrdad Mashkour, born in Iran on 29/03/1990, enrolled in the PhD Programme in Biochemical Engineering at Babol Noshirvani University of Technology (Home University).

**Article 2**

The PhD candidate shall carry out the doctoral activities under the joint supervision of:

- Prof. Francesca Soavi, Department of Chemistry, e-mail address: francesca.soavi@unibo.it appointed by Unibo;
- Prof. Mostafa Rahimnejad, Department of Chemical Engineering, e-mail address: rahimnejad@nit.ac.ir, appointed by BNUT.

The period agreed on for the PhD degree awarding is 4 years, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. It can be extended of 1 year.

The subject of the research project to be carried out at both Universities is: Supercapacitors Based on Cellulose Nanocomposites in Biological Fuel Cells.

Work on the doctoral thesis and the supervision of that work will be carried out during alternated or consecutive periods at each University, but shall include not less than twelve months at the Host University.

The PhD candidate shall successfully complete 12 credits (180 course credit contact hours) at the Home university and attend the required classes and conferences planned under the PhD Course in Chemical Science at the Host university.





The provisional title of the PhD thesis is "Fabrication of Supercapacitors Based on Cellulose Nanocomposites for Use in Biological Fuel Cells."

The one and only thesis defence shall take place at Home University.

The examination committee shall be composed by 4 members.

Unibo will award a doctoral degree in Chemistry.

The Partner University will award a doctoral degree in Biochemical Engineering.

### Article 3

Mr. Mehrdad Mashkour shall be registered at both Universities.

He will get a scholarship from the Home University.

He will pay the tuition fees at the Home University.

Such University will cover the PhD candidate against any accident that he/she may suffer during his/her period of stay for the activities concerned by this agreement and for legal liability against damage which he/she may involuntarily cause to third parties.

### Article 4

For any aspect not governed in this agreement, reference is made to the provisions contained in the framework agreement above mentioned.

Date: 01/08/2019

Date:

For Unibo

For BNUT

The Rector

The Rector

Prof. Francesco Ubertini

Prof. Javad Vaseghi Amiri

The PhD Programme's Coordinator

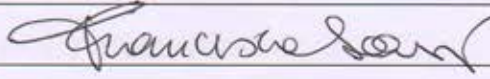
Prof. Prof.ssa Domenica Tonelli

*D. Tonelli*



The Thesis Director

Prof. Francesca Soavi





**FRAMEWORK-AGREEMENT**

**FOR AWARDING DOUBLE DOCTORAL DEGREES**

**BETWEEN**

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, located in Via Zamboni, 33 -  
Bologna, Italy, represented by its current Rector Prof. Francesco Ubertini,  
hereinafter "Unibo"

**AND**

the Babol Noshirvani University of Technology, located in Babol, Iran,  
represented by the Rector Prof. Javad Vaseghi Amiri, hereinafter "BNUT"  
together hereinafter referred to as the "Universities"

**HAVING REGARD TO**

For Unibo

- Article no. 19 of Law no. 240/2010;
- Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013;
- internal Regulations on PhD Programmes;

For BNUT

- internal Regulations on PhD Programmes;

**CONSIDERING THAT**

- both Universities provide PhD programmes in the research field of  
Chemistry;
- Unibo provides the PhD Programme in Chemistry;
- BNUT provides the PhD Programme in Biochemical Engineering;
- both Universities are interested in establishing and developing a long-term  
research collaboration and scientific cooperation in the context of the



above mentioned research field through the mobility of PhD candidates between Unibo and BNUT;

IT IS AGREED AND STIPULATED AS FOLLOWS

**Article 1 – Purpose**

The aim of this agreement is to establish the principles governing admission, study and research conditions, supervision and examination of PhD candidates interested in achieving a double degree from Unibo and BNUT, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations in force at each of their respective countries and universities.

**Article 2 – Admission and enrolment**

PhD candidates are selected by one of the two Universities (which will be referred to as “Home University”), in accordance with its regulations and deadlines, and they must apply for the double doctoral degree within the first year starting from the date of enrolment at the Home University.

Enrolment in the other University (which will be referred to as the “Host University”) requires an eligibility qualification from the relevant Academic Board.

For each PhD candidate to be enrolled in the Host University, Unibo and BNUT will finalise an addendum to the present agreement for awarding the double doctoral degree (see Article 5).

**Article 3 – Activities and supervision**

PhD candidates are expected to comply with regulations in force at each University.

The doctoral activities conducted by the PhD candidates will have the total duration of 4 years (when BNUT is the Home University); 3 years (when





UNIBO is the Home University), starting from the enrolment at the Home University. Where necessary, such a duration can be extended by maximum one year, in accordance with the rules in force at both Universities.

PhD candidates involved in the double degree procedure shall carry out their doctoral activities under the direction and responsibility of two Professors (Supervisors), one assigned by the Home University and one by the Host University.

The Supervisors will:

- agree on terms and conditions of the activities to be carried out, both of them undertaking to collaborate in the tutoring of the PhD candidate;
- combine their efforts and exchange communications to evaluate the progress of the PhD candidate;
- set up a calendar of activities ensuring that periods spent in both Universities will have approximately the same duration. The total duration of the periods spent at each of the two Universities is to be agreed upon by the Supervisors.

PhD candidates should have access to facilities and premises required for research activities during their stay at either of the Universities.

The research and study activities will be carried out at the two Universities during alternated or consecutive periods. The PhD candidate is required to spend at least one year, even not continuous, at the Host University to carry out his/her research.

Visits at Institutions other than the Home and the Host Universities can be authorized.

Both the Home and the Host university may require the PhD candidate to take



a certain number of courses in addition to conducting research activities. In such cases, the number of course credit hours that must be completed by the PhD candidate will be listed in the individual agreement (cotutelle agreement) outlined in Article 5.

On an annual basis or with the prescribed frequency, each University will separately assess the progress of the PhD candidates and will decide about the successful completion of each year of the PhD programme.

#### **Article 4 - PhD degree awarding**

The PhD thesis is expected to contain research material of relevance superior to that is attainable by work performed within a single PhD programme.

The jointly supervised thesis, together with the summary and the report containing both the activities carried out by the PhD candidate and his/her scientific production , shall be written in English language.

The frontispiece of the PhD thesis will comply with the regulations from each University.

Completing the coursework requirements outlined in the cotutelle agreement (if any) and the positive assessment of both thesis supervisors shall be necessary prerequisites for admission to the final defence.

The doctoral studies will terminate with an examination procedure, that will consist of two phases: the external review and the single thesis defence.

The thesis must be assessed by at least two unrelated scholars, which are external to the Universities contributing to the awarding of the degree and who are not members of the final examination committee. These two scholars, known as evaluators, are chosen by both Universities. The evaluators express a written, analytical opinion on the thesis and propose the





admission to the thesis defence. They can also propose the deferral of the final defence for a period not exceeding six months, in the case significant integrations or amendments are needed. Upon expiration of this time limit, the thesis shall be admitted for the defence in any case, complemented by a new written report from the same evaluators issued after any amendment or integration has been made.

The thesis defence will be held at the Home University and will be acknowledged by both Universities.

The examination committee will be appointed by both Universities, shall be composed of professors and/or researchers and shall comprise maximum four members, ensuring the balanced representation of the two Universities. The Supervisors shall participate in the discussion, but not in the evaluation.

The members of the committee external to the Home University may participate in the thesis defence using telematics applications.

The committee will complete and sign a report concerning the thesis defence results. The final grade of the defence is pass/fail, together with a value judgement.

Following the positive assessment on the defence of the thesis, each University will award its own diploma.

The diploma shall explicitly mention that the PhD degree has been awarded in collaboration with the other University.

A decision by the Host University not to award the degree does not preclude the Home University from awarding it.

**Article 5 - Individual agreement (cotutelle agreement)**

For each PhD candidate, Unibo and BNUT will finalise an addendum to this



agreement for awarding the double doctoral degree.

Such an addendum will specify:

- the name of the PhD candidate involved in the double degree procedure;
- the names of the two Supervisors;
- the subject of research project to be carried out at both Universities, in accordance with the timeframe agreed by the Supervisors;
- the approximate duration of the periods that the PhD candidate will spend at the two Universities for the development of the doctoral thesis;
- the number of course credit hours that shall be taken by the PhD candidate at either university (if any);
- the provisional title of the PhD thesis;
- the criteria for the composition of the committee for the final evaluation;
- the denomination of the qualification to be awarded by each University.

**Article 6 – Financial engagement and tuition fees**

PhD candidates shall pay the tuition fees to the Home University, being exempted from the payment of such fees at the Host University.

PhD candidates will be financially supported by a scholarship or grant from either one of the Universities or from a third party.

The travel expenses incurred by the PhD candidates will be covered by the Home University or by the third party who funds the scholarship/grant.

The travel and subsistence expenses incurred by the committee members on the occasion of the final defence shall be borne by their own Universities. The travel expenses for the members of the committee external to both the Universities will be in charge of the University where the defence takes place.

There are no other financial charges for the Universities.





**Article 7 – Health insurance and protection measures**

Charges related to health insurance shall be borne by the PhD candidates themselves.

PhD candidates will be required to show proof of health insurance before their enrolment at the Host University.

The Universities state that the PhD candidates are insured by the Home University against any accident that they may suffer during their period of stay for the activities concerned by this agreement and that they are insured for legal liability against damage which they may involuntarily cause to third parties (people or their properties).

**Article 8 – Intellectual Property Rights**

Nothing in this agreement shall affect the ownership of each Party in relation to its background knowledge and relating intellectual property rights existing prior to this agreement or generated outside the doctoral Research Plan.

Knowledge generated by the PhD candidate under research activities (“Results”) belongs to the Home University. The University owner of the Results shall ensure dissemination and exploitation of such Results, including, where applicable, protection according to national laws in force.

The Host University shall have access rights to Results exclusively for internal research and educational purposes.

In case Results are generated with the joint intellectual contribution both of the PhD candidate and of Host University’s personnel, Results shall be jointly owned by both Parties which shall agree on the respective shares of ownership and the conditions for protection, exploitation and dissemination of Results in a separate agreement.





**Article 9 - Confidentiality**

Each Party undertakes not to disclose to any third party any information, data, know-how, document or other material disclosed to it under this agreement by the disclosing party, which has been stated in writing to be confidential. This obligation shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years from the date of disclosure or from the termination date of this agreement, whichever is longer.

The above obligations of confidentiality, shall not apply to information which i) was in the possession of the recipient prior to initial receipt hereunder, ii) later becomes generally available to the public without breach of this agreement, iii) is received without restrictions on its use or secrecy from a third party having the right to disclose such information, to the best knowledge of the recipient iv) the disclosing party permits, in writing, to publish or use , v) the receiving party develops independently of any disclosure hereunder, or vi) is required to be disclosed by law.

**Article 10 – Publications**

Each Party, also through the PhD candidate, reserves the right to publish or disseminate, in whole or in part, the Results. Prior notice of any planned publication shall be given, including copy of the publication, to the other Party at least 30 (thirty) days before the intended date of publication or dissemination. The other Party shall have the possibility to request, in writing and confidentially, that any confidential information included in such publication or dissemination is removed, within 15 days (fifteen) days after receipt of the above said notice. If no objection is made within the time limit stated above, the publication is permitted.





**Article 11 - Dispute resolution**

All resolutions related to the present agreement must comply with both local regulations.

The Universities agree to solve in a friendly manner any disputes that may arise in the execution and the interpretation of this agreement. If that is not possible, they shall indicate, by mutual agreement, a third party that could act as mediator.

**Article 12 – Effect and modifications**

This agreement will come into effect from the date of signature by both Universities and will remain in force for five years. It may be renewed in written by mutual consent before the expire date.

Either University will be able to express its intention to withdraw by giving a six month prior written notice to the other University.

The present agreement may be modified only through a written amendment agreed on by both Universities.

Date: 2/7/2019

Date:

For Unibo

For BNUT

The Rector

The Rector

Prof. Francesco Ubertini

Prof. Javad Vaseghi-Amiri

